

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in remembrance of the events in Selma, Alabama, in March 1965, and encouraging this Honorable Body to be mindful and attentive of those events and their historical importance.

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965, approximately 600 civil rights activists departed Selma, Alabama, on their way to the state capital in Montgomery. Upon reaching the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the marchers were driven back by police officers using tear gas and violent force; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led a second march. Again the marchers were stopped before they could reach their destination; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 1965, a third march was coordinated. Beginning with 3,200 people, the party had grown to more than 25,000 people by the time it reached Montgomery on March 25th; and

WHEREAS, these events helped to usher in a pivotal era in this nation's history and grew public support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, current events and political decisions in this country have compromised the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, without an eye to the past, the failures of the present are always possible, and by being mindful of Selma's legacy to all Americans, we can continue to shine a light on those brave men and women who gave so much of themselves on that stretch of highway in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body is hereby urged to be mindful of the events of Selma and to be ever vigilant of threats against the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, the promise of the Voting Rights Act is as important today as it was in 1965, and the members of this body, and all the citizens of this great Commonwealth, hereby recommit to strengthening rather than compromising the right of all Americans to vote, to maintaining awareness of their pursuit of equal rights for all God's people, and to understanding the history the events in Selma still represent;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The Senate is mindful and aware of the historical importance of the events in Selma, Alabama, in March 1965, and acknowledges the deep and lasting importance of the selfless actions of the men and women who marched there.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor, utmost respect, and eternal gratitude for those who marched at Selma.

➔Section 3. The Senate hereby reaffirms its commitment to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and recommits itself to the support of the unfettered right of all Americans to have access to the ballot box.

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for delivery.