

A RESOLUTION honoring Edward White upon receiving the 2015 Louisville Metro Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award.

WHEREAS, Ed White is a proud native of the Portland neighborhood in Louisville; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Ed White founded the River City Drum Corps, a cultural arts initiative that combines traditional African drumming, drum making, drum line performance, and servant leadership for at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, the River City Drum Corps is active at three Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) and at Nativity Academy at St. Boniface School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; and

WHEREAS, the River City Drum Corps includes performers who range from two to 18 years of age. The corps helps motivate and guide these youths through the challenges of life, and many of the corps' performers have gone on to earn music scholarships for college; and

WHEREAS, the River City Drum Corps has served as a national model, and similar drumming programs have been created in Paducah, Atlanta, Louisiana, and Florida; and

WHEREAS, Ed White has long been involved in school enrichment programs. He worked to change the JCPS policy to allow basketball programs at elementary schools, and his efforts were integral in the creation of many out-of-school activities offered by JCPS; and

WHEREAS, Ed White was the director of the Parkland Boys and Girls Club in the early 1990s. He majored in photography at Jefferson Community College, and while doing photography work he was encouraged to start the Shawnee Youth Council, which eventually became the Shawnee Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, Ed White has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including a 2014 National Education Association Human and Civil Rights Award, a United States Artists Fellowship, and a Folk Heritage Award from the Kentucky Arts Council; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2015, at the Kentucky Center's Whitney Hall in downtown Louisville, Mayor Greg Fischer presented the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award to Ed White; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body hereby congratulates Ed White upon winning this prestigious award, acknowledges the hard work and dedication he has given to the River City Drum Corps over the last 25 years, and grants best wishes to him and to all the youth who are under his leadership as they continue to set a shining example for the citizens of Louisville and for all in this Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Senate honors Edward White upon winning the 2015 Louisville Metro Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award and rightfully commends him as he continues to strive for the greater good.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Edward White.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for delivery.