

A RESOLUTION adjourning the House of Representatives in honor of Representative Johnny Bell upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, Johnny Bell was born in Barren County, Kentucky, on June 15, 1965, and graduated from Barren County High School. After graduation he actively pursued his interest in agriculture with the production of Burley tobacco and cattle, and willingly assisted any area farmers with their crop plantings/harvestings, dairy milking tasks, or beef cow/calf chores; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Bell has always possessed the desire to excel, and with that compelling desire he chose to add industrial employment to his continuing agricultural activities. Despite the hectic lifestyle that evolved, he set his goal to be an attorney, which led to his college enrollment at Western Kentucky University; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Bell graduated from college and gained admission to the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, where he received his Juris Doctorate, and began the practice of law in southcentral Kentucky, which continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Bell is a man of varied interests with a particular love of the outdoors, which is reflected in his passion for boating, motorcycling, game hunting, breaking of colts, caring for horses, trail riding, and coon hunting; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Bell's compassion and desire to help the underprivileged, the less fortunate, and the deprived led to his candidacy for the Kentucky House of Representatives District 23, and his legislative record is proof that he has sought a better tomorrow for those in his district and for all Kentuckians; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Bell has proudly served as the Majority Whip; as Vice Chair of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary; on the Committee on Committees; the House Standing Committee on Elections, Constitutional Amendments, and Intergovernmental Affairs; the Judiciary Committee; the Rules Committee; and various interim committees. Representative Bell has used his membership on these

legislative bodies to promote his district's interests, especially in the areas of agriculture, education, health care, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Bell will best be remembered by those with whom he served; for his big heart; for being a true friend "that sticks"; for his oratories, which he used to build bridges across political and personal divides; for his ability to combine compassion with logic in assessing the diverse issues that confront the Commonwealth; and for his unyielding commitment to his constituents, which prompted one legislator to warn his constituents that "without him you'll be slurping buttermilk";

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives congratulate the Gentleman from the 23rd District, Representative Johnny Bell, upon his retirement from this honorable body, and wish him many years of health, happiness, and prosperity as he continues his practice of law.

➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Representative Johnny Bell.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Matt Stephens in Capitol Annex Room 303 for delivery.