

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Nevada State Senator Debbie Smith.

WHEREAS, Debbie Smith was born in Tucson, Arizona, on January 14, 1956; and

WHEREAS, at 22 years of age, Debbie Smith was elected to a rural school board in Nevada, and this position served as the beginning of her lifelong advocacy for the betterment of education in that state. She went on to serve as President of the Nevada PTA, and was appointed by two Nevada governors to chair the Council to Establish Academic Standards while serving on the Washoe County Education Alliance and the advisory boards of the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation and the Nevada After School Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Smith was elected to the Nevada State Assembly in 2000, where she chaired the Ways and Means Committee and served as Majority Whip and Speaker Pro Tempore. In 2012, she was elected to the Nevada State Senate where she served as Assistant Majority Leader, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and Assistant Minority Leader; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Smith's legacy in the Nevada Senate will be one of fairness and balance. Respected by both parties, she diligently served the people of her district with class and humility, working on such crucial issues as education reform, wildlife and conservation issues, and in 2013 she championed Brianna's Law, which required a DNA sample to help track down those suspected of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Smith was recognized for her work by the Public Education Foundation, the Nevada Association of School Boards, the Nevada Justice Association, the Nevada Conservation League, and the Nevada Association of Social Workers, among other groups and agencies, and in 2014 she became the President of the National Conference of State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Smith departed this earthly life after a courageous battle with brain cancer on February 21, 2016, leaving her family, friends, and all those whose lives

she touched in solemn mourning; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Smith is survived by her husband, Greg; her children, Olivia (David Bouch), Ian (Yuko Okudaira), and Erin; and grandchildren, Emma and Aanika Bouch;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound sympathy upon the passing of Senator Debbie Smith, and extend heartfelt condolences to their colleagues in the Nevada State Senate upon her passing.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving memory of Debbie Smith.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Robert Stivers II for delivery to the family.