

A RESOLUTION recognizing March as Women's History Month and honoring the award recipients from the University of Louisville/Yearlings Club Forum Series.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this honorable body recognize the many contributions women have made to this Commonwealth and our great nation; and

WHEREAS, in rightful celebration of these accomplishments, March is Women's History Month. Dating back to International Women's Day in 1911, Women's History Month was formally brought into being by Congress in 1987; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background have fostered the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways, and in acknowledgement of this the members of the Senate pause on this day to recognize Women's History Month and to commend all those women who have made profound and significant contributions to their own lives and to the fabric of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Yearlings Club was founded in 1951 with the mission of enhancing the quality of life and development in West Louisville; and

WHEREAS, the Yearlings Club is actively involved in community issues ranging from crime prevention to economic development; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Dr. J. Blaine Hudson and other members of the Yearlings Club partnered with the University of Louisville to create the UofL/Yearlings Club Forum Series, a regimen of presentations meant to bring key university faculty together with community activists and residents to discuss issues of importance; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2016, the University of Louisville/Yearlings Club Forum Series will celebrate Women's History Month by honoring eight women who have profoundly influenced the city of Louisville, the African American community, and the legal profession in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Denise Clayton was the first African American woman appointed and elected to serve on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, 4th Appellate District, Division 2. The former Chief Circuit Judge for Jefferson County, Judge Clayton was the

first black woman to serve as a Kentucky Circuit Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Janice Martin was the first African American female appointed to the Judiciary in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, having been appointed by Governor Brereton Jones to the District Court bench in March 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Pamela R. Goodwine was the first African American female Circuit Court Judge to be appointed and elected to the bench in Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Denise DeBerry Brown was elected in November 2014 to serve an eight-year term as Circuit Judge, Family Division. She also served as the Executive Director of Metro Human Relations and as Assistant City Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Angela J. Johnson was elected in November 2014 as a Circuit Court Judge, and currently presides in Jefferson Family Court, Division 1; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Joan "Toni" Stringer was appointed to Jefferson District Court in 2000. After her retirement in 2009, she continued to serve as a "Senior Status Judge" until 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Erica Lee Williams was appointed in 2009 and serves as the presiding judge in both Jefferson District Court and Jefferson Teen Court; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Sadiqa N. Reynolds served as District Judge for the 30th Judicial Court and was the first African American woman to clerk for the Kentucky Supreme Court, serving as Chief Law Clerk for the late Chief Justice Robert F. Stephens; and

WHEREAS, the Senate honors these eight women for their many contributions, and duly congratulates them upon being honored by the University of Louisville and the Yearlings Club; and

WHEREAS, in so doing the Senate also stands on this day in observance of Women's History Month, and acknowledges the ongoing and lasting importance of these eight women for continuing to serve as shining examples to all the young girls in this

Commonwealth, and for all they have done for the betterment and vitality of the citizens of their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors the eight recipients who will be honored during the University of Louisville/Yearlings Club Forum Series on March 20, 2016.

➔Section 2. The Senate commends the Yearlings Club for all it has done for the University of Louisville and the city of Louisville.

➔Section 3. The Senate recognizes the historical importance of Women's History Month and urges all Kentuckians to celebrate the contributions women have made in this Commonwealth.

➔Section 4. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the Honorable Denise Clayton, the Honorable Janice Martin, the Honorable Pamela R. Goodwine, the Honorable Denise DeBerry Brown, the Honorable Angela J. Johnson, the Honorable Joan "Toni" Stringer, the Honorable Erica Lee Williams, and the Honorable Sadiqa N. Reynolds.

➔Section 5. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit ten copies of this Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal for delivery.