

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Judge Benjamin F. Shobe.

WHEREAS, Benjamin Shobe was born in Bowling Green on October 2, 1920, and was the son of educators. He received a bachelor's degree from Kentucky State College and his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School; and

WHEREAS, barred because of his race to attend the University of Louisville or the University of Kentucky, Benjamin Shobe attended law school at the University of Michigan under the provisions of the Anderson-Mayer Bill, which required the Commonwealth of Kentucky to pay out-of-state tuition for black students when they were not permitted to attend an in-state school; and

WHEREAS, after earning his law degree Benjamin Shobe practiced law in Kentucky as a trial attorney, and in 1949, along with then-NAACP legal director Thurgood Marshall and other attorneys, represented Lyman T. Johnson in the famous case earning him admission to the University of Kentucky as an undergraduate; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 1953, Benjamin Shobe became the first African American since Reconstruction to serve on the Circuit Court of Kentucky. In 1976, Governor Julian Carroll appointed him to the 15th Division of the Jefferson Circuit Court, where he served until his retirement in 1992; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his service, the Louisville Bar Association and the Louis D. Brandeis American Inn of Court created the Judge Shobe Civility and Professionalism Award in 2006 to recognize Louisville Bar Association members "whose lives and careers embody professionalism, civility, honesty, and courtesy," all trademarks embodied by Judge Benjamin Shobe throughout his distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Shobe served as president of the Louisville chapter of the NAACP, and throughout his legal career tirelessly advocated for the equal treatment of African Americans in Jefferson County and this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Circuit Judge Benjamin F. Shobe Jury Assembly Room

was dedicated at the Jefferson County Judicial Center, further recognizing Judge Shobe's extraordinary career and his relentless pursuit of the common good; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Shobe departed this earthly life on January 29, 2016, leaving all those whose lives he impacted with his passion, his intelligence, and his unwavering belief in justice for all in solemn mourning; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body stands in mourning upon the passing of Judge Benjamin F. Shobe, and rightfully reflects upon his remarkable contributions to the law and to civil rights in Kentucky;

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 heartfelt sympathy upon the passing of Judge Benjamin F. Shobe, and honor him on this day for his civility, courage, and the profound mark he has left on the people of this Commonwealth.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving memory of Judge Benjamin F. Shobe.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit ten copies of this Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal for delivery to the family.