

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Katherine Johnson.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Katherine Johnson is a distinguished mathematician with the
3 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) who has been an integral
4 member of the nation's space program for more than 30 years; and

5 WHEREAS, on November 24, 2015, Dr. Katherine Johnson received the
6 Presidential Medal of Freedom during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House
7 in Washington, D.C.; and

8 WHEREAS, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the nation's highest
9 civilian honor, recognizes individuals who have made meritorious contributions to the
10 security or national interests of the United States. Dr. Johnson was selected for her
11 exceptional leadership in the space program from Project Mercury to the modern shuttle
12 program; and

13 WHEREAS, a native of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Dr. Katherine
14 Johnson was a first-generation college student whose parents rented a house near West
15 Virginia State University so she could complete her degree. Exceptionally skilled in
16 mathematics, she graduated college at the age of 18; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1952, Dr. Katherine Johnson found employment at NASA's Langley
18 Research Center at a time when African-American women were typically assigned to all-
19 black computer pools; and

20 WHEREAS, within only weeks of starting, Dr. Katherine Johnson was asked to
21 assist in the Spacecraft Dynamics Branch of the Flight Dynamics and Control Division,
22 and her expertise would become crucial to every major American space program in the
23 20th century; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Katherine Johnson calculated the trajectory for the first manned
25 spaceflight by an American in 1961, verified the first calculation made by a computer for
26 the first orbit of the earth by an American, and worked on Apollo 11's trajectory to the
27 moon in 1969; and

1 WHEREAS, an inspirational leader, Dr. Katherine Johnson has encouraged young
2 men and women throughout the United States to pursue careers in science, technology,
3 and mathematics. She has earned numerous awards and accolades for her service to the
4 nation and to the field of space exploration;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

8 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby commend Dr.
9 Katherine G. Johnson for her luminous career with NASA; for her many
10 accomplishments in the fields of science, mathematics, and technology; and for her
11 contributions to the American space program.

12 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
13 honor of Dr. Katherine G. Johnson.

14 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
15 copy of this Resolution to Representative Reginald Meeks for delivery.