

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Sheila Mason upon winning the 2017 Vic Hellard Jr.
2 Award for exemplary public service.

3 WHEREAS, the Vic Hellard Jr. Award was created in 1997 to recognize
4 outstanding public service in the spirit he brought to it: good humor, compassion, vision,
5 and a reverence for history; and

6 WHEREAS, Vic Hellard Jr.'s belief in the innate goodness of the people of this
7 Commonwealth was expressed through his core conviction that public service is a
8 citizen's highest civic calling, and it is the continuing mission of the Legislative Research
9 Commission to promote sound relationships between constituents and legislators,
10 between Kentuckians and their Capitol, and between each and every member of the LRC
11 staff; and

12 WHEREAS, the Legislative Research Commission is proud to announce Sheila
13 Mason as the recipient of the 2017 Vic Hellard Jr. Award; and

14 WHEREAS, Sheila Mason has served the agency for 37 years. Beginning her career
15 in 1980 as an analyst on the Program Review and Investigations Committee, she would
16 go on to serve in many different roles, including Committee Staff Administrator,
17 Assistant Director, *Legislative Record* Compiler, and Legislative Intern Coordinator; and

18 WHEREAS, it is perhaps in her work with legislative interns that Sheila Mason
19 excels the most. As a gifted teacher, mentor, and one who is deeply concerned with the
20 future of state government and those who might one day serve the citizens of this
21 Commonwealth, she has made an indelible imprint on the lives of hundreds of LRC
22 interns since 2002; and

23 WHEREAS, Sheila Mason has been involved with many civic organizations and
24 projects, including the Kentucky Historical Society; the Kings Center, where she served
25 as chair of the board of directors; and the Capital City Museum of the Frankfort Parks,
26 Recreation, and Historic Sites; and

27 WHEREAS, indubitably shaped by her childhood growing up in a racially

1 segregated Frankfort, she has drawn on her life experience to shape her work in this
2 agency, bringing to her daily efforts a sense of unwavering pride and fairness for all. She
3 drew from these very experiences to write and edit *Community Memories: A Glimpse of*
4 *African American Life in Frankfort, Kentucky*, which was published in 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, Sheila Mason has been rightfully honored for her service over the
6 years. She is active in the National Conference of State Legislatures, which recognized
7 her with its 2005 Legislative Staff Achievement Award, honoring legislative staff who
8 have exemplified excellence in their legislative careers and have made outstanding
9 contributions to the organization; and

10 WHEREAS, Sheila Mason was also the recipient of the Frankfort Chamber of
11 Commerce's Paul Sullivan Award in 2016, the Kentucky Historical Society's
12 Distinguished Service Award, the Southern Legislative Conference's Carter/Hellard
13 Legislative Staff Award, and a Council of State Governments' Henry Toll Fellowship;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, for 37 years, Sheila Mason has served LRC with her trademark
16 professionalism, wit, and kindness. As the *Legislative Record* Compiler, she works long
17 hours to ensure that citizens, legislators, reporters, and staff all have accurate information
18 on the General Assembly's daily action. In this and her many other roles, she is utterly
19 invaluable to the agency, and it is rightful that she be honored on this day; and

20 WHEREAS, in so doing, this august body thanks Sheila Mason for her many years
21 of exemplary service to the Legislative Research Commission, commends her for the
22 passion she brings to her work, and acknowledges her profound and continuing
23 contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

24 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

27 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor Sheila Mason upon

1 winning the 2017 Vic Hellard Jr. Award.

2 ➔Section 2. The members also commend Sheila Mason for her service to the
3 Legislative Research Commission and for all she has done on behalf of a generation of
4 legislative interns.

5 ➔Section 3. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Sheila
6 Mason.