

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing Jackson Hall in Frankfort, Kentucky for its
2 importance as the "Kentucky Museum of African American History."

3 WHEREAS, overlooking Kentucky's State Capitol Building and downtown
4 Frankfort, Jackson Hall is a two-story building of German castle style built in 1887; and

5 WHEREAS, as the first building on Kentucky State University campus, Jackson
6 Hall is a symbol of African American education in the Commonwealth, representing the
7 history of Kentucky State University; and

8 WHEREAS, although the architect and builder of Jackson Hall are unknown, the
9 young laborers that built Jackson Hall became the school's first students; and

10 WHEREAS, Jackson Hall contained classrooms, administrative offices, and the
11 chapel where faculty and students assembled for devotion and formal addresses; and

12 WHEREAS, Jackson Hall was named in honor of John H. Jackson, the first
13 President of Kentucky State University and thought to be the first black college graduate
14 of Kentucky, having graduated from Berea College in 1874; and

15 WHEREAS, Jackson Hall stands as a monument to the determination of early
16 Kentucky State University teachers, staff, students, citizens, and community leaders, both
17 black and white, who after the Civil War demonstrated a commitment to the education
18 and training of African American teachers; and

19 WHEREAS, Jackson Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in
20 1973 in the areas of education and architecture; and

21 WHEREAS, at the time of its placement on the National Register of Historic
22 Places, Jackson Hall fulfilled the purposed role of the "Museum of Kentucky Negro
23 History"; and

24 WHEREAS, Jackson Hall shall now house the "Kentucky Museum of African
25 American History" and become a catalyst for heritage tourism in this Commonwealth;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of Kentucky State University have worked

1 tirelessly to lay the foundation of excellence in education that continues today. For
2 example, Professor and Dean Paul William Lawrence Jones, an 1898 graduate, launched
3 the University's first intercollegiate athletic team and curated the first photographic and
4 written history; and

5 WHEREAS, Professor and Historian Dr. Henry E. Cheaney, a leading authority on
6 the history of African Americans in the Commonwealth and a 1936 graduate, established
7 the University's first African American history collection; and

8 WHEREAS, Whitney Young School of Honors and Liberal Studies Associate
9 Professor Dr. Anne Butler served as founding director of the Center of Excellence for the
10 Study of African Americans at Kentucky State University from 1996 until her death in
11 2013; and

12 WHEREAS, the mission of the Center of Excellence for the Study of African
13 Americans is the collection, preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of materials
14 about African Americans in Kentucky; and

15 WHEREAS, the repository of the Center of Excellence for the Study of African
16 Americans, including artifacts and University archives, will be subsumed by the
17 Kentucky Museum of African American History; and

18 WHEREAS, the Center of Excellence for the Study of African Americans
19 repository includes collections and papers of noted veterans, civil rights leaders, and
20 cultural icons; and

21 WHEREAS, the Center of Excellence for the Study of African Americans
22 repository includes official records and papers of Lieutenant James McCullin, a 1942
23 alumni, Tuskegee Airman in the 99th Fighter Squadron who received the Purple Heart,
24 this Nation's oldest military award, for his bravery in World War I, and one of the first
25 two black United States Army Air Force pilots to be killed in combat; and

26 WHEREAS, the Center of Excellence for the Study of African Americans
27 repository also includes official records and papers of Roy M. Chappell, who was born in

1 Williamsburg, Kentucky, attended Kentucky State University before leaving to join the
2 Tuskegee Airman 447th Bombardment Group during World War II, and later served at
3 Godman Field in Fort Knox, Kentucky; and

4 WHEREAS, the Center of Excellence for the Study of African Americans
5 repository also includes official records and papers of Rufus Ballard Atwood, Kentucky
6 State University's ninth President who was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery in the
7 Signal Corps 92nd Division in World War I. During his 33-year tenure as President,
8 Rufus Ballard Atwood improved the Kentucky State University Campus, worked with the
9 Julius Rosenwald Fund to establish Rosenwald School, and accomplished many other
10 achievements on behalf of educating Kentuckians; and

11 WHEREAS, the Center of Excellence for the Study of African Americans
12 repository also includes official records and papers of Whitney Moore Young, Jr., the son
13 of educators born in Shelby County, Kentucky who was a 1941 graduate and member of
14 the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity who became a noted American civil rights leader, recipient
15 of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, served as executive director of the National Urban
16 League, and was an advisor to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon; and

17 WHEREAS, the Center of Excellence for the Study of African Americans
18 repository also includes a special collection of Isaac Murphy, the first jockey to win three
19 Kentucky Derbys. Born Isaac Burns to slaves in Bourbon, Kentucky, Isaac Murphy
20 moved to Lexington, Kentucky after the death of his father at Camp Nelson, Kentucky.
21 Isaac Murphy became the first jockey inducted into the National Museum of Racing and
22 Hall of Fame and was profiled in the Smithsonian Magazine. Today, Isaac Murphy is
23 known as one of the first sports stars in American and Kentucky history for his winning
24 record of 44 percent; and

25 WHEREAS, schools, researchers, and the public interested in education and
26 cultural heritage will have barrier-free access to the newly-designated Kentucky Museum
27 of African American History at Kentucky State University; and

1 WHEREAS, understanding the contributions and experiences of African Americans
2 has shaped the Commonwealth of Kentucky and provides an opportunity to learn from
3 past and present; and

4 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13287, Preserve
5 America, in an effort to preserve American heritage by promoting inter-governmental
6 cooperation and partnerships with state and local governments for the preservation and
7 use of historic properties for economic development; and

8 WHEREAS, understanding how the contributions and experiences of African
9 Americans has shaped the Commonwealth of Kentucky provides an opportunity to learn
10 from past and present;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
13 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

14 ➔Section 1. Jackson Hall in Frankfort, Kentucky is recognized for its importance
15 as the "Kentucky Museum of African American History."

16 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
17 copy of this Resolution to Representative Derrick Graham for delivery.