

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Representative Darryl Owens upon his retirement from
2 the House of Representatives.

3 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body pause on this day to reflect on the
4 extraordinary life and career of one of its own: our friend and colleague, Representative
5 Darryl T. Owens; and

6 WHEREAS, born in 1937 in Louisville, Darryl Owens went on to graduate from
7 Central State and Howard Universities; and

8 WHEREAS, Darryl Owens served as the first black assistant prosecutor of
9 Louisville Police Court, and the first black assistant Kentucky Attorney General. He
10 would take the bench as Juvenile Court Judge in 1980 and serve as the trial commissioner
11 of Jefferson County Court; and

12 WHEREAS, Darryl Owens was the architect of the African American Strategic
13 Planning Group, a program that helped develop the Economic Opportunities Act and
14 promote minority-owned businesses in Louisville; and

15 WHEREAS, a titan of civil rights in this Commonwealth, Representative Owens
16 would use his career as a public servant and community leader to become one of the most
17 influential voices in the struggle for equality and justice. A former President of the
18 NAACP, he was instrumental in calming the unrest after the deaths of 10 people during a
19 civil rights rally in May 1968, and would later lead his community after the firebombings
20 of Zion Baptist Church and the Newburg Community Center; and

21 WHEREAS, Darryl Owens was elected to House District 43 in 2005. His
22 exemplary civil rights work and his tireless service on behalf of at-risk communities
23 would continue well after his election to the General Assembly, and he would become
24 synonymous with several key issues to come before this body, notably his longtime
25 support of a felony expungement bill. That piece of landmark legislation, House Bill 40,
26 would pass the House in 2016 by a vote of 80-11, reflecting Representative Owens's long-
27 held belief that "every human deserves a second chance"; and

1 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that on this day the members of this body honor
2 one of our own, the Gentleman from Jefferson 43, Representative Darryl Owens. In so
3 doing, the members commend Representative Owens for his years of dedicated service to
4 this body, grant him best wishes upon his retirement, and rightfully thank him for all he
5 has accomplished in the name of civil rights and equality for all;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

9 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor
10 Representative Darryl Owens upon his retirement.

11 ➔Section 2. The members acknowledge Representative Darryl Owens's passion,
12 his resolute fearlessness in the face of the greatest obstacles, and his unwavering pride as
13 a civil rights leader in this Commonwealth.

14 ➔Section 3. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
15 honor of and eternal gratitude to Representative Darryl Owens.

16 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representative is directed to transmit a
17 copy of this Resolution to Representative Rocky Adkins for delivery.