

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Joseph
2 Leon "Joe" Hardesty.

3 WHEREAS, Joe Hardesty was born in Lafayette, Indiana, on August 2, 1954, the
4 cherished son of the late Elizabeth Craven Hardesty and Leon Howard Hardesty; and

5 WHEREAS, a graduate of West Point, Joe Hardesty went on to serve in the United
6 States Army as a Field Artillery Officer before serving for 15 years in the Army Reserves;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Joe Hardesty was a 1984 graduate of the Louis D. Brandeis School of
9 Law at the University of Louisville, where he served as executive editor of the Law
10 Review; and

11 WHEREAS, Joe Hardesty was a longtime partner at Stites and Harbison in
12 Louisville. His specialty was construction and business disputes, and he was recognized
13 by *The Best Lawyers in America* as one of the top construction lawyers in the United
14 States in 2017 and 2018; and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Hardesty was also deeply involved in the Jefferson County Public
16 School System. He was chair of the Jefferson County Board of Education for many years,
17 and the Kentucky School Boards Association named him Outstanding School Board
18 Member of the Year in 2008. He was particularly interested in the educational
19 opportunities for students in southwest Louisville. In 2013, Governor Steve Beshear
20 appointed Mr. Hardesty to serve on the Kentucky Retirement System Board of Trustees;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Joe Hardesty, American patriot; gifted attorney; avid marathon runner
23 and mentor; and beloved husband, father, and brother, departed this earthly life on
24 February 26, 2018, leaving his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched in
25 solemn mourning; and

26 WHEREAS, Joe Hardesty was preceded in death by his parents and his stepfather,
27 Herbert Bricker. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Julie Lott Hardesty; children,

1 John Hardesty (Jessica), Josh Hardesty, and Kathryn Hardesty; sister, Priscilla Holder
2 (Perry); and a host of other family members, friends, and loved ones who will dearly miss
3 his presence in their lives;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
6 *Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound
8 sympathy upon the passing of Joseph Leon "Joe" Hardesty, and posthumously thank him
9 for his service to the United States, to the legal community in this Commonwealth, and to
10 Jefferson County Public Schools.

11 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
12 memory of Joseph Leon "Joe" Hardesty.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
14 Resolution to Senator Morgan McGarvey for delivery to the family.