

1 A RESOLUTION celebrating the life of Linda Brown.

2 WHEREAS, Linda Brown was born on February 20, 1943, to Leola and Oliver
3 Brown; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1951, Linda Brown was a student at Monroe Elementary in Topeka,
5 Kansas. After her father, Oliver, objected to Linda's long and dangerous walk to school,
6 Mr. Brown and 12 other plaintiffs brought a lawsuit against the Topeka Board of
7 Education; and

8 WHEREAS, while that lawsuit was struck down, Oliver Brown later joined a
9 challenge by the NAACP on behalf of families from several states; and

10 WHEREAS, this challenge would ultimately make its way to the United States
11 Supreme Court; and

12 WHEREAS, the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* was handed down by the
13 Supreme Court on May 17, 1954. The court unanimously overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*,
14 which allowed state-sponsored segregation, and found that "separate educational facilities
15 are inherently unequal"; and

16 WHEREAS, *Brown v. Board of Education* really began on a sunny day in
17 September 1950, when Linda Brown's father walked her to school and made a decision
18 that she should not be forced to matriculate to that school, but rather should be allowed to
19 attend a segregated school closer to home; and

20 WHEREAS, father and daughter returned home that day without entering the school
21 building, and Linda Brown would note later in her life that she "could feel the tension
22 being transferred from his hand to mine"; and

23 WHEREAS, this was the beginning of a monumental change in the history of this
24 country, and a centerpiece to the ongoing civil rights movement; and

25 WHEREAS, even though just a child at the time of the landmark *Brown v. Board of*
26 *Education* decision, Linda Brown nonetheless became a symbol of a changing America
27 and the face of a new, courageous country that is fighting for equality to this day; and

1 WHEREAS, it is the belief of the members of this august body that every student in
2 this Commonwealth's educational system are equal, and that no student should be denied
3 a proper education because of race, creed, sexuality, or economic standing; and

4 WHEREAS, on March 25, 2018, Linda Brown departed this earthly life and entered
5 into the kingdom of Heaven, leaving all those whose lives she touched, particularly those
6 who benefited from her role in ending racial segregation in America's schools, in solemn
7 mourning; and

8 WHEREAS, this body rightfully celebrates the life and legacy of Linda Brown on
9 this day, while acknowledging the profound accomplishments of her father and of those
10 courageous men and women who stepped forward and gave voice to the civil rights
11 movement at its inception;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
14 ***Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively,
16 hereby celebrate the life of Linda Brown, and acknowledge the momentous importance of
17 *Brown v. Board of Education*.

18 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of and
19 gratitude to Linda Brown.

20 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
21 Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal.