

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Tom Jensen Highway in Laurel County.

2 WHEREAS, Tom Jensen, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, came to Kentucky in his
3 college years on a basketball scholarship to Sue Bennett Junior College; and

4 WHEREAS, Tom Jensen finished his undergraduate studies at Cumberland
5 College, and later graduated from the Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky
6 University; and

7 WHEREAS, finding Kentucky to his liking, Tom Jensen and his wife, the former
8 Nannette Curry, made a home in London, where he began practicing law in 1978; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1984, Tom Jensen was elected to the Kentucky House of
10 Representatives, representing the 89th Representative District, where he served until
11 1996, including a stint as Minority Floor Leader from 1991 to 1995; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2005, Tom Jensen was elected to the Kentucky State Senate,
13 representing the 21st Senatorial District, where he served the citizens of Estill, Laurel,
14 Powell, Jackson, and Menifee Counties, until 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Tom Jensen was noted for his service
16 as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, focusing on issues such as fighting the
17 rise of methamphetamine production and combating prison overcrowding and earning
18 recognition as Kentucky State Senator of the Year in 2011; and

19 WHEREAS, Tom Jensen sought a new challenge in 2012, when he was elected as
20 Circuit Judge for the 27th Judicial Circuit, a position he held until his retirement from an
21 almost 20 year career in public service in 2016; and

22 WHEREAS, in addition to his service in elected office, Tom Jensen has served as a
23 member of the Board of Directors of the London/Laurel County Industrial Development
24 Board, Northern Kentucky University Alumni Board, Development Board of Cumberland
25 College, Board of Directors of Professional Home Health Agency, Inc., Board of
26 Directors of the London/Laurel County Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of
27 Directors of Cumberland River Comprehensive Care Center; and

1 WHEREAS, in an interview at the time of his retirement, Tom Jensen summed up
2 his views on public service succinctly and eloquently when he said, "I enjoyed trying to
3 make a difference. I think it was seeing if you could make things better...But it was a
4 good feeling if you got something accomplished. It was a good feeling that you thought
5 you could make things better. Sometimes we were right, sometimes we weren't. I think,
6 you know, Kentucky's my home, and I wanted to make it as good as I possibly could. Of
7 course, I wasn't a dictator, and I wasn't Governor or anything like that, but I did, as Floor
8 Leader in the House, have some impact on some things. We were able to put in some
9 legislation that I think has made a difference in the state. It moved at a snail's pace,
10 sometimes you'd get frustrated. Sometimes you would argue that there was a better way
11 of doing it and you couldn't get your way about it, but that's democracy, and the one
12 thing that I saw in the legislature: for the most part, people were up there for the right
13 reasons. They were up there to make Kentucky better."; and

14 WHEREAS, Tom Jensen currently is enjoying a return to the practice of law and
15 spending time with his wife and daughters Natalie and Laura, and doting on his
16 grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the General Assembly recognize in some
18 tangible way the hard work and dedication of decent, honorable citizens like Tom Jensen,
19 who answer the call to public service and strive to make life better for their fellow
20 citizens;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

23 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate Kentucky Route 3006 in
24 Laurel County as the "Tom Jensen Highway" and shall, within 30 days of the effective
25 date of this Resolution, erect appropriate signs denoting this designation.