

1           A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Dr.  
2 Katherine Johnson.

3           WHEREAS, Dr. Katherine Johnson was a distinguished mathematician with the  
4 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and an integral member of the  
5 nation's space program for more than three decades; and

6           WHEREAS, on November 24, 2015, Dr. Katherine Johnson received the  
7 Presidential Medal of Freedom during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House  
8 in Washington, D.C.; and

9           WHEREAS, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor,  
10 recognizes individuals who have made meritorious contributions to the security or  
11 national interests of the United States. Dr. Johnson was selected for her exceptional  
12 leadership in the space program from Project Mercury to the modern shuttle program; and

13           WHEREAS, a native of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Dr. Johnson was a  
14 first-generation college student whose parents rented a house near West Virginia State  
15 University so she could complete her degree. Exceptionally skilled in mathematics, she  
16 graduated college at the age of 18; and

17           WHEREAS, in 1952, Dr. Johnson found employment at NASA's Langley Research  
18 Center at a time when African American women were typically assigned to all-black  
19 computer pools; and

20           WHEREAS, within only weeks of starting, Dr. Johnson was asked to assist in the  
21 Spacecraft Dynamic Branch of the Flight Dynamics and Control Division, and her  
22 expertise would become crucial to every major American space program in the 20th  
23 century; and

24           WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson calculated the trajectory of the first manned spaceflight by  
25 an American in 1961, verified the first calculation made by a computer for the first orbit  
26 of the earth by an American, and worked on Apollo 11's trajectory to the moon in 1969;  
27 and

1           WHEREAS, an inspirational leader, Dr. Johnson encouraged a generation of young  
2 women throughout the United States to pursue careers in science, technology, and  
3 mathematics; and

4           WHEREAS, Dr. Katherine Johnson departed this earthly life on February 24, 2020,  
5 and an entire Commonwealth stands in solemn reverence for her profound contributions  
6 to the fields of science and space exploration in this country;

7           NOW, THEREFORE,

8 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
9 *Kentucky:*

10           ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound  
11 sympathy upon the passing of Dr. Katherine Johnson, and acknowledge her contributions  
12 as a scientist, as a woman of color, and as a human being of the first order.

13           ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving  
14 memory of Dr. Katherine Johnson.

15           ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
16 Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal for delivery.