

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Dr. Mary
2 Levi Smith-Stowe.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Levi Smith-Stowe was born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, on
4 January 30, 1936, the cherished daughter of the late Elder William Monroe Levi and
5 Byneter Markham Levi; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith-Stowe was a proud graduate of Jackson State University
7 and the University of Kentucky, where she received her master's and Ph.D.; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith-Stowe joined the faculty of Kentucky State University in
9 1974 as an assistant professor of education. In 1983 she was named Dean of the College
10 of Applied Sciences and in 1991, she was named the fourteenth President of Kentucky
11 State University, becoming the first female president of the university and the first
12 African American female president in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith-Stowe served in this capacity from 1991 until 1998. During
14 her tenure Kentucky State University added two accredited master's programs, and she
15 oversaw the establishment of the Center for Diversity and the Center of Excellence for
16 the Study of Kentucky African Americans. The Mary L. Smith Clock Tower was recently
17 constructed on the Kentucky State University campus in her honor, and it serves as a
18 testament to her unwavering leadership and vision; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Levi Smith-Stowe, renowned educator; university president;
20 trailblazer; and cherished wife, mother, and grandmother, departed this earthly life on
21 November 28, 2020, leaving all those whose lives she touched in solemn mourning; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith-Stowe was preceded in death by her parents; first husband,
23 LeRoy V. Smith; daughter, Angela Williams; stepson, James H. Stowe Jr.; and several
24 siblings. She is survived by her husband, Pastor James H. Stowe; children, Dr. Darryl V.
25 Smith (Kristel) and Danee L. Smith (Lillibeth); son-in-law, Rance Williams;
26 stepdaughter, Melanie Robbins; grandchildren, Danielle, Morgan, Brittany, Blake, Raven,
27 Henry, Janae, Shiloh, and Noelle; and four great-grandchildren;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
3 *Kentucky:*

4 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby expresses its most profound sympathy upon the
5 passing of Dr. Mary Levi Smith-Stowe, and posthumously acknowledges her many
6 contributions to the field of education in this Commonwealth and to Kentucky State
7 University.

8 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
9 memory of Dr. Mary Levi Smith-Stowe.

10 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
11 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas for delivery.