

1           A JOINT RESOLUTION designating a portion of United States Highway 60 in  
2           Shelby County in honor and memory of Whitney M. Young, Jr.

3           WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr., the cherished son of Whitney M. Young, Sr.  
4           and Laura Ray Young, was born on July 31, 1921, in a two-story wooden house on the  
5           campus of The Lincoln Institute; and

6           WHEREAS, The Lincoln Institute in Shelby County, Kentucky, operated from 1912  
7           to 1966 as a boarding school for African-American students; and

8           WHEREAS, The Lincoln Institute is recognized for its contribution to the rich  
9           African-American heritage of Shelby County and the Commonwealth; and

10          WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Sr. was educated at The Lincoln Institute and  
11          served as its first African-American President from 1935 to 1966; and

12          WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Sr. was a well-known community leader in  
13          Shelby County; and

14          WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. graduated from The Lincoln Institute as  
15          valedictorian of his class and often returned to Shelby County for events held at The  
16          Lincoln Institute; and

17          WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in  
18          Social Work from Kentucky State University in 1941 and his Master's Degree in Social  
19          Work from the University of Minnesota in 1947; and

20          WHEREAS, while at Kentucky State University, Whitney M. Young, Jr. was a  
21          forward on the university's basketball team, and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha  
22          fraternity, where he served as the vice president; he became the president of his senior  
23          class, and graduated in 1941; and

24          WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. was trained in electrical engineering at the  
25          Massachusetts Institute of Technology during World War II, and was then assigned to a  
26          U.S. military road construction crew, where he was promoted to first sergeant and served  
27          a mediating role between whites and blacks, thereby honing his early diplomatic and

1 leadership skills. This experience propelled Young into a career in race relations; and

2 WHEREAS, after the war, Whitney M. Young, Jr. started working for the National  
3 Urban League; he became the president of the Omaha, Nebraska, chapter in 1950;  
4 Whitney M. Young, Jr. became the Executive Director of the National Urban League in  
5 1961, a position he held until his death in 1971; Whitney M. Young, Jr. developed  
6 numerous strategies that changed the National Urban League from a relatively benign  
7 organization to one that became dynamic and outspoken during the Civil Rights  
8 Movement; and

9 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. often partnered with other civil rights leaders  
10 and organizations, such as the great Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. of the Southern  
11 Christian Leadership Conference, Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the  
12 Advancement of Colored People, and James Farmer of the Congress of Racial Equality,  
13 to make drastic changes to the social and political environment of the United States.  
14 Whitney M. Young, Jr., like the other leaders, pushed for voting rights, racial equality,  
15 and equal opportunity for all Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. was one of the organizers of the historic March  
17 on Washington in 1963, as well as an important advisor to U.S. Presidents John F.  
18 Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard M. Nixon; he pushed for federal aid to cities,  
19 proposed a "domestic Marshall Plan," and was widely recognized as the co-author of  
20 President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty; and

21 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. once said, "every man is our brother, and every  
22 man's burden is our own; where poverty exists, all are poorer; where hate flourishes, all  
23 are corrupted; and where injustice reigns, all are unequal"; and

24 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. spent his career working to end employment  
25 discrimination and promote equitable access to socioeconomic opportunity for the  
26 historically disenfranchised in the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. is credited with almost singlehandedly

1 persuading corporate America and major foundations to aid the civil rights movement  
2 through financial contributions in support of self-help programs for jobs, housing,  
3 education, and family rehabilitation; and

4 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. received many honorary degrees and awards  
5 throughout his career, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by  
6 President Lyndon B. Johnson for his outstanding civil rights accomplishments; and

7 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr. was offered a Cabinet-level position in the  
8 Nixon Administration, but he chose not to accept the position, believing he could  
9 accomplish more for civil rights with the National Urban League; and

10 WHEREAS, on March 11, 1971, Whitney M. Young, Jr. departed these earthly  
11 bounds at the age of 49, in Nigeria while attending a conference on Afro-American  
12 understanding; and

13 WHEREAS, upon learning of the death of Whitney M. Young, Jr., President  
14 Richard M. Nixon sent an airplane to Nigeria to bring Young's body back to the United  
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, President Richard M. Nixon delivered the eulogy at the funeral of  
17 Whitney M. Young, Jr. in Lexington, Kentucky; and

18 WHEREAS, President Richard M. Nixon designated federal funds to establish a  
19 Jobs Corps Center in 1972 on the campus of The Lincoln Institute in Shelby County,  
20 naming the center in honor of Whitney M. Young, Jr.; and

21 WHEREAS, The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Job Corps Center in Shelby County is  
22 located on U.S. Route 60 between the Jefferson/Shelby County line and the intersection  
23 of that road with Montclair School Road in Simpsonville; and

24 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young's namesakes include: the Whitney M. Young, Jr.  
25 Elementary School in Louisville, KY; the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Elementary School in  
26 Dallas, TX; the Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago, IL; The Whitney  
27 Young Honors Collegium at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, KY; The Whitney

1 Young Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C.; the Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr.  
2 Memorial Conference held by the African-American MBA Association at The Wharton  
3 School of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA; the Whitney M. Young, Jr.  
4 Service Award of the Boy Scouts of America; and the Whitney M. Young, Jr. American  
5 Center in Lagos, Nigeria; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service honored Whitney M. Young, Jr. in  
7 1981 by issuing a stamp bearing his likeness as part of its ongoing Black Heritage series;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Whitney M. Young, Jr.'s birth site is recognized as a National Historic  
10 Landmark and as one of the country's most important civil rights sites, and is included in  
11 the United States Civil Rights Trail that stretches from schools in Topeka, Kansas to the  
12 Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

13 WHEREAS, this designation will serve as constant reminder that Whitney M.  
14 Young, Jr. is remembered as a favorite son of Shelby County, and a treasure of this great  
15 Commonwealth of Kentucky;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

18 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate a portion of United States  
19 Highway 60, in Shelby County, from the Jefferson/Shelby County line, to its intersection  
20 with Montclair School Road in Simpsonville, as the "Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial  
21 Highway" and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the  
22 appropriate signage.