

1           A RESOLUTION honoring the celebration of Black History Month and recognizing  
2 the accomplishments and contributions of Lawrence Smith.

3           WHEREAS, during the month of February 2022, across the United States of  
4 America and this great Commonwealth, observances are held to increase public  
5 awareness of the importance of Black history and the contributions that African  
6 Americans have made toward this country; and

7           WHEREAS, each year Kentuckians pause to recognize and reflect on the  
8 accomplishments African Americans have made across the country and our  
9 Commonwealth; and

10           WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith began his TV news career as an intern at WTVQ in  
11 Lexington during his junior year at Eastern Kentucky University, launching a career with  
12 stops in Knoxville, Tennessee; Houston, Texas; and the city he considers his home,  
13 Louisville, Kentucky; and

14           WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith worked at three TV newsrooms in Louisville,  
15 including WAVE, WHAS, and most recently WDRB; and

16           WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith served as WDRB's political reporter for 10 years,  
17 including coverage of the Louisville City and Metro Halls, the Kentucky State Capitol,  
18 and the United States Capitol, where he conducted interviews with Presidents Donald  
19 Trump (twice), George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton; Kentucky Governors from Julian  
20 Carroll to Andy Beshear; and Louisville mayors from Harvey Sloane to Greg Fischer; and

21           WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith and his videographer captured film of a tornado as it  
22 destroyed a gas station just across the street from the gas station that he utilized for  
23 shelter in March 2012 in Henryville, Indiana; and

24           WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith won an Emmy award for the WDRB coverage of the  
25 social justice protests in response to the death of Breonna Taylor in 2020; and

26           WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith served for 11 years at the Southern Baptist  
27 Theological Seminary, first as the Vice President for Communications and later as Dean

1 of Students, becoming the first African American to hold either position in the school's  
2 history; and

3 WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith served as president of the Louisville chapter of the  
4 International Association of Business Communicators; and

5 WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith left WDRB to become the communications director  
6 for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and editor of its news outlet, Kentucky Today,  
7 becoming the first African American to hold either of those positions; and

8 WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith is the eldest son of Air Force veteran Paul Smith of  
9 Louisville and his late wife, Mary Young Smith; and

10 WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith has been married to his wife, Garnetta for almost 43  
11 years, with two beloved children, Jason and Edward, who reside in Louisville; and

12 WHEREAS, Lawrence Smith received Louisville Metro Council's 11th District  
13 achievement award in recognition of Black History Month;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
16 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

17 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives, individually and  
18 collectively, hereby celebrate February as Black History Month, and urge the citizens of  
19 the Commonwealth to be mindful of the history, culture, and profound contributions  
20 African Americans have made.

21 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives honors Lawrence Smith, and  
22 commends him for his contributions to his state and the nation.

23 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
24 copy of this Resolution to Representative Kevin Bratcher.