

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of the
2 individuals whose lives were tragically lost in the recent flooding that ravaged Eastern
3 Kentucky.

4 "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;
5 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

6 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

7 WHEREAS, beginning on July 26, 2022, Eastern Kentucky and Central Appalachia
8 were inundated with thunderstorms which, at times, caused rainfall rates in excess of four
9 inches an hour across the mountainous terrain, causing widespread destruction and
10 devastation; and

11 WHEREAS, the surging floodwaters, landslides, and mudslides destroyed homes
12 and businesses and caused significant damage to schools, roads, bridges, and water
13 systems, with thousands of families losing everything they owned; and

14 WHEREAS, to date, in spite of the heroic work of first responders and the
15 Kentucky National Guard, who performed over 600 helicopter rescues and countless swift
16 water rescues by boat to evacuate people who were trapped by the quickly rising flood
17 waters, 39 people have perished as a result of this disaster; and

18 WHEREAS, while the Governor has called the General Assembly into
19 extraordinary session to provide the resources necessary to rebuild the homes, businesses,
20 and infrastructure of the region, it is also fitting and proper that we pause to honor the
21 victims whose lives were taken by the flooding; and

22 WHEREAS, the victims were of all ages, and included four siblings, Maddison
23 Noble, age 8; Riley Noble, Jr., age 5; Nevaeh Noble, age 4; and Chance Noble, age 2;
24 who were swept out of their parents' arms when the roof of the house upon which they
25 sought shelter from the rising waters collapsed; and

26 WHEREAS, victims included those who died trying to help others, such as Gabriel
27 Hensley, age 30, of Yerkes, who had just finished a shift at a coal mine and was trying to

1 get home to his wife and five children, when, along the way, he and his brother-in-law
2 stopped to help others and his truck was swept away by flood waters; and

3 WHEREAS, another Good Samaritan, Nikki "Duncan" Slone, age 50, of Pippa
4 Passes had gone out to check on a friend when she succumbed to the floodwaters; and

5 WHEREAS, the flood claimed other victims even as the waters subsided, when
6 Aaron "Mick" Crawford, a student and football player at Knott County Central High
7 School who had just turned 18, fell ill after assisting flood victims for three days and was
8 taken to the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, where he was placed
9 on a ventilator for four days before he died on August 5, 2022; and

10 WHEREAS, so many other individuals, each with their own unique life stories,
11 perished in this catastrophe, including Diana Amburgey, age 65; Betty Beaver, age 73,
12 and her son, Bobby Beaver, age 46, of Fisty; Troy Calhoun, age 52; David Campbell, age
13 78, of Rowdy; Helen Campbell, age 82, of Hardshell; Adam Combs, age 75, and his wife,
14 Elizabeth Mae Combs, age 71, of Fisty; Gary Combs, age 61, of Bowling's Creek;
15 Johnny Wayne Combs, age 60, of Fisty; Tommy Lynn Cornett, age 61, of Carrie; Ruby
16 Cundiff, age 69, of Clayhole; Betty Estep, age 67, of Isom; Rita Hall, age 78; Amy
17 Henson, age 40; Walter Hinkle, age 76, of Oneida; Nellie Mae Howard, age 82, of
18 Chavies; Johnathan Larry Hunter, age 51, of Topmost; Jeanette Johnson, age 65, of
19 Clayhole; Gilla Ann Miller, age 83, of Hardshell; James Miller, age 73, and his wife
20 Carol Miller, age 72; Caster Clark Slone, age 74, of Hindman; Judy and Victor "Bones"
21 Slone, of Leburn; Dennis Edward Stacy, age 71, of Hazard; Clarence Sturgill, age 79, and
22 his wife, Jewel Sturgill, age 64, of Eolia; Christine Roberts, age 63; Rosie Vick, age 55,
23 of Pine Top; and Brenda Webb, age 81, of Oneida; and

24 WHEREAS, all of these individuals leave behind a lifetime of memories in the
25 hearts and minds of their families and friends, who are forced to deal with this deeply
26 emotional and personal loss on top of any physical damage caused by the storms; and

27 WHEREAS, the people of this region are hardworking and resilient, and while the

1 Commonwealth and the entire nation reach out to them in their time of need, some
2 wounds will take longer to heal; and

3 WHEREAS, while the Senate convenes to do the people's business, it is appropriate
4 for this body to pause and reflect on the human toll of this tragedy and to honor those
5 victims;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

9 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound
10 sympathy for the victims of the Eastern Kentucky floods, and send condolences and
11 prayers to the families and friends of those victims.

12 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
13 memory of the victims of the Eastern Kentucky floods.