

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the life and accomplishments of former Kentucky
2 Governor John Young Brown Jr.

3 WHEREAS, John Young Brown Jr. was born on December 28, 1933, in Lexington,
4 Kentucky, to the late U.S. Congressman John Y. Brown Sr. and Dorothy Inman Brown;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, John Y. Brown Jr. was an avid sportsman in high school and
7 distinguished himself as one of Encyclopedia Britannica's top salesmen in the country,
8 paying his way through college and law school at the University of Kentucky; and

9 WHEREAS, John Y. Brown Jr. initially practiced law with his father in Lexington
10 and Louisville, Kentucky, before leaving the active practice of law in 1964; and

11 WHEREAS, John Y. Brown Jr. was only 30 years old when he purchased Kentucky
12 Fried Chicken (KFC) from its founder Harland Sanders in 1964 and, within seven years,
13 he transformed the restaurant into one of the world's largest fast-food chains; and

14 WHEREAS, because of John Y. Brown Jr.'s exceptional business management
15 skills, KFC became a worldwide success, resulting in significant gains when he sold the
16 company in 1971; and

17 WHEREAS, after selling his interest in KFC, John Y. Brown Jr. went on to invest
18 in several other restaurant ventures and also purchased three separate professional
19 basketball teams: the American Basketball Association's Kentucky Colonels and the
20 National Basketball Association's Boston Celtics and Buffalo Braves (now known as the
21 Los Angeles Clippers); and

22 WHEREAS, John Y. Brown Jr. was a talented businessman and was named one of
23 the top 200 American business leaders of the 20th century by Harvard Business School in
24 2009; and

25 WHEREAS, John Y. Brown Jr. was elected Kentucky's 55th Governor in 1979.
26 During his term as Governor, John Y. Brown Jr. created a more diverse cabinet than
27 previous administrations and changed the state's contracting procedures to a competitive

1 bid process, saving millions of dollars. Despite hard economic times during his tenure, he
2 held the line in not raising taxes and brought in top Kentucky business leaders as cabinet
3 secretaries; and

4 WHEREAS, John Y. Brown Jr. had many successes as Governor, including the
5 establishment of the Governor's Scholars Program, which still exists today; and

6 WHEREAS, as Governor, John Y. Brown Jr. also used his business and marketing
7 skills to promote Kentucky nationally and abroad, which attracted major businesses like
8 UPS; and

9 WHEREAS, in addition to his business and political accomplishments, John Y.
10 Brown Jr. was also a philanthropist who built the Pamela Brown Auditorium at
11 Louisville's Actors Theatre in honor of his sister and was instrumental in creating the
12 Muhammad Ali Center. He also helped fund the downtown Louisville YMCA and helped
13 establish the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging at the University of Kentucky; and

14 WHEREAS, John Y. Brown Jr. passed away on November 21, 2022, surrounded by
15 his loving family, at the age of 88. He is survived by his five children: John Y. Brown III,
16 Sandy Steier, Sissy Brown, Lincoln Brown, and Pamela Brown; 12 grandchildren; and
17 longtime partner Mary Ellen Wheeler;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
20 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

21 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives do hereby honor the
22 life and accomplishments of former Kentucky Governor John Young Brown Jr. and
23 posthumously recognize him for his many accomplishments and dedication to the state of
24 Kentucky.

25 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
26 copy of this Resolution to Representative Ken Fleming.