

1 A RESOLUTION remembering and honoring the survivors and victims of the 1993
2 East Carter High School shootings.

3 WHEREAS, on January 18, 1993, Gary Scott Pennington, a bright but troubled
4 student, walked into his 7th period English class with a .38-caliber revolver that he had
5 smuggled to school in his backpack; and

6 WHEREAS, Gary Pennington fired one shot at his teacher Deanna McDavid,
7 narrowly missing her, and fired again, killing her instantly. Upon hearing the shots, the
8 head custodian Marvin Hicks and social studies teacher Jack Calhoun rushed to Mrs.
9 McDavid's classroom to investigate; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks was shot once in the abdomen and would later die at the
11 scene. Mr. Pennington would then aim his weapon at Mr. Calhoun, but did not pull the
12 trigger; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Pennington would then hold his classmates hostage for
14 approximately 15 minutes, counting his ammunition and telling them he had one bullet
15 for each of them, before allowing them to leave the room in pairs; and

16 WHEREAS, he finally surrendered to Grayson Police Officers Keith Hill and Larry
17 Green, who responded to emergency calls and had arrived in the hallway outside the
18 classroom; and

19 WHEREAS, Gary Pennington was certified to stand trial as an adult and would
20 ultimately be convicted of two counts of murder and 22 counts of kidnapping, for which
21 he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for 25 years. He is
22 serving his sentence in the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville; and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. McDavid was remembered as a caring but tough teacher who did
24 anything for her students. As her colleagues would say, "she would never let anyone
25 shortchange her kids" and "after her family, her students were the most important people
26 in her life." She would ensure her students would get a date for a dance or money for a
27 tux if needed. When Mr. Pennington broke his glasses in a fight, she immediately sent

1 them to Doc Webb, the local optometrist, and had the glasses back before Mr. Pennington
2 boarded the bus home; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks was known for his easygoing nature, good humor, and
4 "making East Carter High School a better place." He was always the first to arrive at
5 school, filling the pop machines and arranging the cafeteria chairs. He always had an
6 extra quarter to lend kids for a soda. He was "the kind of guy who'd stop and help you if
7 you were broke down on the interstate" and "never minded staying late to finish a job";
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the members of this august body join Senator Robin Webb in
10 mourning the loss of those who lost their lives in this heartbreaking tragedy, honoring the
11 courage of those who escaped or sought help, and extending comfort and consolation to
12 all those whose lives continue to be affected by the events of that terrible day;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
15 ***Kentucky:***

16 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby solemnly recognizes January 18, 1993, as a day of
17 mourning for those who tragically lost their lives in the East Carter High School
18 shootings and honors the courage and bravery of the survivors.

19 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
20 Resolution to Senator Robin Webb.