

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Dr. Robert
2 L. Douglas.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas was a native of Louisville, Kentucky, who was
4 born on August 3, 1934. He was raised in his beloved Smoketown neighborhood with his
5 eight brothers and sisters and a cherished niece; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas graduated from Central High School in 1953.
7 He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts from the University of
8 Louisville in 1963. He earned his Master's Degree from the University of Iowa in
9 American Studies with an emphasis in Pan African Studies in 1981. Dr. Robert L.
10 Douglas continued his studies under Dr. Darwin Turner, renowned Pan Africanist, and in
11 1983 earned his PhD in the same discipline; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas utilized his degrees and accepted a post as an
13 Assistant Professor in the Pan African Studies Department at Ohio University in Athens,
14 Ohio. Longing to return to his home city, he returned to Louisville and accepted a joint
15 appointment as Assistant Professor in both the Department of Pan African Studies and
16 the Department of Art History at the University of Louisville; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas excelled in his teaching career and served as
18 chair of the Department of Pan African Studies at the University of Louisville from July
19 1989 to June 1995; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas sought to expand his knowledge of art and Pan
21 African studies throughout Louisville and Kentucky. In 1991, he helped to create the Pan
22 African Institute for teachers at the University of Louisville, a two-week summer institute
23 for Jefferson County Public School teachers aimed at supporting multi-culturalism. He
24 served as a member of the conference planning committee for the Black Family
25 Conference at the University of Louisville from 1986 to 2000. Dr. Douglas served as the
26 curator for a number of traveling art exhibitions, including the African American
27 Contemporary Art at the Gibellina Museo Civico D'Arte Contemporanea, Universita Di

1 Palermo Sicily in 1990. He was appointed by the governor to serve two terms on the
2 Kentucky African American Heritage Commission. Dr. Robert L. Douglas was also the
3 author of numerous scholarly articles, exhibition catalogs, and two books which focused
4 on African American art and poetry; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas had a spirit for adventure and traveled
6 throughout the world. He made trips to France, Spain, Switzerland, West Africa, North
7 Africa, Egypt, and India. An accomplished researcher and scholar, he enjoyed interacting
8 with his students while championing them to embrace a multicultural education. At the
9 time of his passing, he was a Professor Emeritus at the University of Louisville; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas died on February 8, 2023, and was preceded in
11 death by his parents, Ura and Inez (Dawson) Douglas; his siblings, Hazel (Reed), Susie
12 (Jones), Dorothy (Anderson), Charlotte (Miller), Janet (Woodard), Ura, John, and Charles
13 Douglas; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Douglas is survived by his devoted wife of 44 years,
15 Laura; eight children, Madonna Clark, Robrina Davis, Sonya Burke, Ava Douglas,
16 Robert Douglas Jr., Mitchell Douglas, Dara Douglas, and Dr. Camara Douglas; niece,
17 Eunice Easton; sixteen grandchildren, Martina McElroy, Shannon McElroy, Christopher
18 McElroy, Douglas McElroy, Mikell Johnson, Nicole Douglas, Kenton Burke, Keenen
19 Burke, Anja Taylor, Ayanna Taylor, Antonia Taylor, Mitchell Douglas, Nia Douglas,
20 Camaya Douglas, Camara Douglas, Jr., and Ra'Miyah Sims; and 21 great-grandchildren;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
23 ***Kentucky:***

24 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby extend their most profound
25 sympathy upon the passing of Dr. Robert L. Douglas, and posthumously thank him for
26 his many contributions to advancing Pan African Studies to students and citizens of
27 Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

1 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
2 memory of Dr. Robert L. Douglas, PhD.

3 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
4 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for delivery to the family.