

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing Friday, March 8, 2024, as International Women's
2 Day and honoring the extraordinary women of the House of Representatives, both past
3 and present.

4 WHEREAS, in March 1977, the United Nations General Assembly declared March
5 8 as International Women's Day; and

6 WHEREAS, for more than four decades, International Women's Day has served as
7 a day of celebration for the profound accomplishments of women across the world; and

8 WHEREAS, International Women's Day also affirms that the more than three
9 billion women around the world have fundamental rights, participate in the political,
10 social, and economic lives of their communities, play a critical role in providing and
11 caring for their families, and contribute substantially to the economic growth of their
12 communities; and

13 WHEREAS, women have proven time and time again that they are leaders and
14 continue to exhibit excellence in their various leadership roles across the world, including
15 in this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1921, this Commonwealth elected Mary Elliott Flanery to the
17 Kentucky General Assembly. Not only did she become the first woman ever elected to
18 the Kentucky House of Representatives, she also became the first woman elected to any
19 state legislature south of the Mason-Dixon line; and

20 WHEREAS, Mary Elliott Flanery demonstrated to women that their voices and
21 perspectives were of great value to the citizens of the Commonwealth. At 33 members,
22 there is currently a record number of women serving in the House of Representatives.
23 The precedent Mary Elliott Flanery set has forged the way for women to serve, not only
24 as members of the House of Representatives, but also as key figures in leadership; and

25 WHEREAS, former Representative Sannie Overly became the first female Majority
26 Caucus Chair in 2013. This position is currently held by Representative Suzanne Miles,
27 who has served in this capacity since 2019, making her the longest-serving female in any

1 leadership role in the House of Representatives. Representatives Cherlynn Stevenson and
2 Rachel Roberts also serve the minority in a leadership capacity, through their roles as
3 Minority Caucus Chair and Minority Whip, respectively; and

4 WHEREAS, the longest-serving current member of the House of Representatives is
5 a woman. Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo has served her state and her district for
6 nearly 34 years, making her the longest-serving woman in the state legislature; and

7 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that all citizens in this Commonwealth acknowledge
8 the profound place women have in the overall vitality of Kentucky's economy, its culture,
9 and the education of its youth; and

10 WHEREAS, in so doing, this honorable body rightfully applauds the women of this
11 Commonwealth, and duly thanks them for all they do to ensure Kentucky's success; and

12 WHEREAS, this body also commends those women whose past efforts paved the
13 way for those who now benefit from their sacrifice, their courage, and their vision,
14 including women in this chamber;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

18 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives, both individually and
19 collectively, hereby recognize Friday, March 8, 2024, as International Women's Day and
20 honor the extraordinary women of the House of Representatives, both past and present,
21 for their dedication and commitment to this Commonwealth.

22 ➔Section 2. The members recognize that the empowerment of women is deeply
23 linked to the potential of this Commonwealth to generate economic growth and true
24 inclusivity for all.

25 ➔Section 3. The members celebrate the lives and legacies of Kentucky's famous
26 women, while also rightfully commending the women who are currently blazing paths for
27 future generations.

1 ➔Section 4. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
2 honor of International Women's Day.

3 ➔Section 5. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of
4 this Resolution to Representative Suzanne Miles.