

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing the two hundred fifty year history of prayer opening
2 legislative sessions in the United States.

3 WHEREAS, in 1774, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and on its first
4 day discussed the need to open the session in prayer, and a motion was made to open
5 each session in prayer; and

6 WHEREAS, after the motion to open the session in prayer was opposed by some
7 divided in religious sentiments, Samuel Adams declared he was no bigot was willing to
8 hear a prayer given by a friend of the country and a gentleman of piety and virtue; and

9 WHEREAS, the following day, the Continental Congress was opened with prayer
10 by Jacob Duche, an Episcopal clergyman who also shared the scripture, Psalm 35; and

11 WHEREAS, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, marveling at Mr. Duche's
12 choice of Psalm 35 and his exemplary prayer. Mr. Adams declared that it seemed that "as
13 if Heaven had ordained" that Psalm 35 be read, following a British cannonade of Boston
14 the night before, and that he had never seen a greater effect upon an audience, as the
15 prayer "filled the bosom of every man present"; and

16 WHEREAS, at the beginning of each legislative session, both chambers of the
17 Kentucky General Assembly introduce a resolution to invite local area pastors to open
18 every day of the legislative session with prayer; and

19 WHEREAS, by opening every legislative session day with prayer, the Kentucky
20 General Assembly proudly continues a two hundred fifty year tradition which started in
21 1774 with the Continental Congress which established these United States;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
24 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

25 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives adjourns this day in honor and
26 recognition of the two hundred fifty year tradition of opening each legislative session day
27 in prayer.

1 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives shall proudly continue this tradition of
2 inviting local area pastors to open each legislative session day with prayer, invoking the
3 presence of God in the assembly and the guidance of his Holy Spirit in the deliberations
4 of this auspicious body, in a way as powerful as did Reverend Duche's first prayer at the
5 Continental Congress in 1774.