

1 A RESOLUTION honoring and recognizing the impact Native Americans have
2 made and continue to make in Kentucky's history.

3 WHEREAS, numerous tribes, such as the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Shawnee,
4 Delaware, Mosopelea, Wyandot, Yuchi, and others, occupied various regions of the
5 Commonwealth before European contact; and

6 WHEREAS, several cultures and nomadic groups, such as the Adena, Hopewell,
7 and Paledonians, left a lasting mark on Kentucky's landscape in the form of earthen
8 burial mounds and countless artifacts spread throughout the Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, countless Native American men, women, and children were forcibly
10 removed or killed by Europeans in Kentucky beginning as early as 1773; and

11 WHEREAS, through warfare, intimidation, and other forms of coercion of Native
12 tribes, the land constituting the modern Commonwealth of Kentucky was ceded to the
13 United States of America by unfair treaties including the Treaty of Holston in 1791, the
14 Treaty of Greenville in 1795, and the Treaty of Tuscaloosa in 1818; and

15 WHEREAS, Kentucky has two sites that were stops on the Trail of Tears, which
16 was the horrific forced displacement of approximately 60,000 members of the Cherokee,
17 Muscogee, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw nations from the Eastern United States by
18 the United States government between 1830 and 1850; and

19 WHEREAS, the memory of the suffering of Native Americans who were illegally
20 and cruelly forced from their homes is preserved and promoted by institutions such as the
21 Kentucky Native American Heritage Museum in Corbin; and

22 WHEREAS, hundreds of Kentuckians today are members or descendants of Native
23 tribes and thousands of Kentuckians can trace their ancestry back to Native people who
24 lived and still live throughout the Commonwealth; and

25 WHEREAS, there are several sites throughout Kentucky that honor and preserve
26 Native culture, including Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site, Trail of Tears
27 Commemorative Park, and Big Bone Lick State Historic Site; and

1 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission was established
2 as part of the Kentucky Heritage Council in 1996 to recognize and promote Native
3 American contributions and influence in Kentucky's history and culture; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1998, the Kentucky General Assembly enacted legislation
5 establishing November of each year as "Native American Indian Month" and encouraging
6 schools, clubs, and civic and religious organizations to recognize Native American
7 history and culture in order to promote greater understanding and community between
8 Native Americans and non-Native American Kentuckians; and

9 WHEREAS, despite Kentucky's recognition of the history of indigenous peoples,
10 the Commonwealth still faces difficulties regarding the fair treatment of Native
11 Americans and inadequate acknowledgement of the historic destruction of indigenous
12 cultures; and

13 WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance to recognize that Native people have always
14 and will always be an integral part of the culture of the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

18 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby acknowledge the strength and
19 resilience of Native Americans who live and have lived in Kentucky and recognize the
20 impact Native Americans made and continue to make in Kentucky's history.

21 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
22 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas.