

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing and congratulating Reverend Willis Polk on his  
2 retirement after 50 years of ministry and service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Willis Polk began his ministry in April of 1974 at First  
4 Baptist Church of Versailles, Kentucky; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Polk prepared for a life working in ministry by studying  
6 religion and theology at Georgetown College, the Lexington Theological Seminary, and  
7 historically Black Simmons Bible College in Louisville; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Polk has led several different congregations across central  
9 Kentucky, including First Baptist Church of Versailles, Antioch Baptist Church of  
10 Lexington, and Imani Baptist Church of Lexington; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition to his pastoral work, Reverend Polk contributed to the  
12 spiritual well-being of his community by serving as both the Historian and an instructor  
13 in the Congress of Christian Education within the Progressive National Baptist  
14 Convention, as well as working as Director of Personal Needs for Warnke International  
15 Ministry; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Polk's service to his community has extended beyond his  
17 work in ministry, demonstrating his commitment to servant leadership; and

18 WHEREAS, Reverend Polk has served in a variety of positions in both academia  
19 and public service, including President of the Woodford County NAACP; member of the  
20 Kentucky State University Council for Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching;  
21 member of the Woodford County Planning and Zoning Commission; task force member  
22 for the Kentucky's Child and Adolescent Service System Program; coordinator for  
23 Project Asset, a federally funded project with the Kentucky Office of Vocational  
24 Rehabilitation; board member of a five county area board for Bluegrass Community  
25 Action Agency; and member of an advisory committee for the National Youth Summer  
26 Athletic Program at Kentucky State University; and

27 WHEREAS, Reverend Polk has received distinguished honors for his work in

1 ministry, education, and public service, including the 1982 Outstanding Young Men of  
2 America Award and being named a Kentucky Colonel by Governors Martha Layne  
3 Collins and John Y. Brown; and

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Polk has chosen to retire after a long and storied career in  
5 which he affected a strong positive impact on the spiritual, civic, and academic life of  
6 central Kentucky;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
9 *Kentucky:*

10 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes and congratulates Reverend Willis  
11 Polk on his retirement after 50 years of ministry and service to the Commonwealth of  
12 Kentucky.

13 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
14 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas for presentation.