

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of William
2 "Bill" Smith.

3 WHEREAS, William "Bill" Smith of London, Kentucky, was a devoted servant of
4 the Lord. As a longtime faithful member of Faith Assembly of God, Bill Smith
5 exemplified the qualities of compassion, empathy, and selflessness through his service on
6 the church board and other ministries; and

7 WHEREAS, Bill Smith began his life of service as a member of the United States
8 Army and obtained the rank of Sergeant; and

9 WHEREAS, Bill Smith was a patrolman for the City of London police department
10 for 10 years. He was appointed to the position of Chief of Police, and he served in that
11 capacity for over eight years. During his tenure on the police force, he initiated plans for
12 a central dispatch system, and within five years the system evolved into the current 911
13 service. In 1989, he initiated the D.A.R.E. program in the Laurel County school district
14 and provided valuable education in drug resistance to youth; and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Smith completed his EMT training in 1977. This significant step
16 propelled him further in his career as a dedicated public servant. In 1978, he was
17 responsible for the merging of the House Funeral Home with Rawlings Funeral Home,
18 now known as House-Rawlings Funeral Home. However, the funeral homes within
19 Laurel County decided to terminate ambulance operation during a time when the need for
20 an ambulance service was growing. Bill Smith and his wife, Janet, decided to utilize his
21 EMT training, and the couple purchased the ambulance service to accommodate the
22 medical transport needs of Laurel County; and

23 WHEREAS, since 1977, Bill Smith and his family have successfully operated
24 Ambulance Inc. Always thinking ahead, Bill Smith upgraded his ambulance service in
25 1986 with advanced life support. His company was the first to offer this within the
26 southeastern Kentucky region; and

27 WHEREAS, Bill Smith served on the London City Council and has been an

1 instrumental figure in the development of many projects and policies within Laurel
2 County; and

3 WHEREAS, as President of Ambulance Inc., Bill Smith was a devoted leader,
4 public advocate, community figure, and role model for generations to come. He worked
5 tirelessly to improve emergency response systems, public health and safety, and the well-
6 being of the Laurel County community. He was a guiding light of optimism and
7 motivation for all; and

8 WHEREAS, Bill Smith passed away on February 26, 2024, joining his loved ones
9 who preceded him in death: his parents, James D. and Lena Larkey Smith; six siblings,
10 Edith Huff, J.D. Smith, Harry Smith, George Smith, Eugene Smith, and Wandella
11 Shackelford; and his great-grandbaby, Knight; and

12 WHEREAS, Bill Smith is survived by the love of his life, Janet Higgins Smith;
13 three children, Timothy (Cathy) Smith, Susan (Mark) Carpenter, and Shannon (Travis)
14 Knight; sister, Virginia "Jenny" (Monroe) Jones; seven grandchildren, Amanda (Phillip)
15 Mason, Lauren (Ricky) Baker, Karen (John) Jones, Tate (Morgan) Knight, Gage Knight,
16 Laura Beth Knight, and Ashley (Travis) Sizemore; thirteen great-grandchildren, Luca,
17 Liam, Remi, Emma, Zophie, Simi, Kyler, Lilah, Blaine, Gunner, Brooklyn, Leila, and
18 baby Elise due in May; and a host of other family and friends;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

20 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
21 ***Kentucky:***

22 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby expresses its most profound sympathy upon the
23 passing of William "Bill" Smith.

24 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
25 memory of William "Bill" Smith.

26 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
27 Resolution to Senator Brandon Storm for delivery to the family.