

1 A RESOLUTION commemorating and honoring the life and accomplishments of
2 Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff was born in Richmond, Kentucky. He joined
4 the United States Army in 1945 and served as the motor officer of the 62nd Petroleum
5 (Heavy) Battalion. After the war, he earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery from Howard
6 University and graduate degrees in physical anthropology from the University of
7 Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff entered the private practice of dentistry
9 before he joined the University of Kentucky's Departments of Anthropology and
10 Orthodontics and later became the first Black chairman of any department at the
11 University of Kentucky; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff was a prolific researcher, being an early
13 adopter of precision photogrammetry, a pioneer of computer-assisted dentoalveolar
14 measurement modes, and an explorer of genetic variation in bilateral dental structures;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff was the principal investigator for many
17 National Institutes of Health research grants and published more than 63 peer-reviewed
18 research papers; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff initiated the establishment of a successful
20 template for the recruitment and retention of Black dental students which resulted in
21 numerous Black dental program graduates representing every dental specialty; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff culminated his career by developing an
23 academic protocol for the Orthodontic Graduate Program at the University of Texas,
24 from which he retired in 1998; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff was active with the First Presbyterian
26 Church in San Antonio, Texas, and the Louisville Calvin Presbyterian Church, as well as
27 the Mission Road Developmental Center, the National Conference for Community and

1 Justice, and the First Presbyterian Church Medical-Dental Missionary team to the Meru
2 district of Kenya, Africa; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff passed away peacefully in December 2023
4 after a life of innumerable achievements. He was survived by his wife, Brenda Payne
5 Biggerstaff, daughter, Paula Biggerstaff (Jose) White, and numerous nieces, nephews,
6 grandchildren, and great-grandchildren;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

10 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound
11 sympathy upon the passing of Dr. Robert H. Biggerstaff and honor him for his many
12 accomplishments.

13 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
14 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for delivery to the family.