

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory former State
2 Representative Johnnie Hubert "Hubie" Collins.

3 WHEREAS, Johnnie Hubert Collins was born August 19, 1936, in Johnson County,
4 Kentucky, to Johnnie Collins and Nola Spradlin Collins; and

5 WHEREAS, Hubert Collins graduated from Oil Springs High School and,
6 following graduation, at the age of 18, began teaching elementary grades at Long Fork
7 School and Jenny's Creek school under an emergency teaching certification until 1958;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, on May 6, 1959, Hubert Collins married Beatrice Joylene Collins,
10 "Miss Bea," who would remain his faithful partner for over 60 years, until her death in
11 2021; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1959, Hubert Collins began his service in the United States Army at
13 the Rapid City Army Air Base in South Dakota. During this time, he worked under a
14 Master Sergeant, refereeing Army basketball games both on and off base, thus beginning
15 Hubert's love of refereeing, a passion he continued for more than 30 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Hubert Collins worked as a referee in the 1978 Sweet Sixteen State
17 Basketball Tournament, and kept his Kentucky High School Athletic Association referee
18 certification for over 50 years; and

19 WHEREAS, after he was honorably discharged from military service in 1965,
20 Hubert and Bea Collins returned to their native Johnson County, Kentucky, where Hubert
21 worked as a car salesman and earned licenses as a real estate agent and auctioneer,
22 eventually opening his own business, Collins Auto Sales & Real Estate; and

23 WHEREAS, Hubert Collins attended Morehead State University while maintaining
24 his business, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1969 and a Master of
25 Arts in Education in 1971; and

26 WHEREAS, Hubert Collins began teaching in the Johnson County School System,
27 where he taught health and physical education, including the DARE program, until he

1 retired in 2002. He loved his students, and that love was reciprocated; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1990, Hubert Collins was elected as the State Representative from
3 District 97 and served 26 consecutive years, the last 20 of which as the Chair of the
4 House Transportation Committee. He also served on the Education and the Natural
5 Resources and Environment Committees; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout his career in Frankfort, Hubert Collins was respected by
7 his colleagues in the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats alike, and
8 universally viewed as an effective legislator who built trusting relationships on both sides
9 of the aisle, worked effectively on legislation that would improve conditions for Eastern
10 Kentucky and its citizens, sponsored hundreds of bills and brought millions of dollars
11 back to his district, and was responsive to the needs of his constituents; and

12 WHEREAS, Hubert Collins was proud to be a member of the Eastern Kentucky
13 Caucus, a group of representatives and senators from the mountains who banded together
14 to do what was right for their region and were a legislative force to be reckoned with; and

15 WHEREAS, Hubert Collins was affectionately known by many as "Hubie,"
16 including by his friends and colleagues in Frankfort, and was always easy to spot in the
17 halls of the Capitol building and on the House Floor, not because his voice was loud but
18 because of his sharp style of dress, which featured sport coats in just about every color of
19 the rainbow, which led to informal competition between Hubie and former
20 Representative Brent Yonts as to who could wear the brightest colors; and

21 WHEREAS, one of Hubert Collins' great joys as a legislator was having students
22 from Johnson County serve as pages on the House Floor or come to the Capitol to be
23 recognized for their achievements, an exercise which was the perfect combination of his
24 two professional loves – education and being a legislator; and

25 WHEREAS, Hubert Collins departed this earthly life on April 21, 2023, leaving
26 behind the memory of a man who was known by different names to different people:
27 Hubert, Hubie, Representative Collins, Mr. Chairman, and Uncle Hubert; a man who was

1 loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew him; and while he is missed by us on
2 earth, we know he is reunited with his love, Bea, and wearing a brightly colored sport
3 coat;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
6 *Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively, do
8 hereby express their deepest sympathy upon the passing of former Representative Hubert
9 Collins, and posthumously honor him for his dedicated service to his constituents in the
10 97th Representative District and the Commonwealth as a whole.

11 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
12 memory of former Representative Hubert Collins.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
14 Resolution to Senator Robin Webb for delivery to the Collins family.