

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring Dr. Robert "Bob" L. Jackson upon his  
2 retirement as president of Murray State University.

3           WHEREAS, Dr. Robert "Bob" L. Jackson, a native of LaRue County, was  
4 appointed as the 14th president of Murray State University on March 1, 2019, after  
5 serving as interim president since August 7, 2018; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Jackson served the Commonwealth with distinction as a State  
7 Senator for the 1st District from 1997 to 2005, holding the position of Senate Majority  
8 Whip, among other positions in government; and

9           WHEREAS, under Dr. Jackson's leadership as president of Murray State  
10 University, there was a renewed focus on enrollment and retention, including a record  
11 freshman class for Fall 2023, and the 4th largest freshman class for Fall 2024, among  
12 other enrollment successes; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. Jackson's administrative team ensured access and affordability for  
14 Kentucky students and families, which were the cornerstone of his personal beliefs and  
15 actions as president. Murray State University is a nationally recognized best value  
16 institution, receiving record rankings in this area for years; and

17           WHEREAS, as president of Murray State University during the COVID-19  
18 pandemic, Dr. Jackson developed a comprehensive plan and moved the university  
19 forward with no major adverse financial events, no employee layoffs or furloughs, and no  
20 cuts in pay or benefits, and held firm to his commitment to in-person learning, with the  
21 university recognized as being the most in-person university in Kentucky by the  
22 Chronicle of Higher Education; and

23           WHEREAS, during his tenure, Murray State University celebrated its centennial in  
24 a record manner and documented its 100-year history with a new book, "The Finest Place  
25 We Know," authored by Dr. Jackson; and

26           WHEREAS, Dr. Jackson's administration focused on preserving Murray State  
27 University's historic campus and upgrading key facilities used by the entire campus

1 community, including the restoration of Lovett Auditorium, and completed important  
2 work on Wrather Hall, Woods Park, Wilson and Wells Halls, and the Curris Center; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Jackson has also been a strong advocate for the needs of the  
4 animal agricultural industry and for listening and responding to farmers and agricultural  
5 leaders, and he has worked alongside state leaders to help this important industry; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout his presidency, Dr. Jackson served as chair of the Council  
7 of University Presidents for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, working  
8 tirelessly to promote the importance of postsecondary education and fight for access and  
9 affordability for all students; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Jackson is a proud alumnus of Murray State University, where he  
11 met his wife, the former Karen Miller, a native of Lyon County and registered nurse. Dr.  
12 and Mrs. Jackson have two adult children, Nolan and Mariel; and

13 WHEREAS, the Kentucky State Senate is proud of the legacy of president and  
14 former State Senator, Dr. Bob Jackson, and his contributions to the Commonwealth of  
15 Kentucky;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

19 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate recognize Dr. Robert "Bob" L. Jackson's  
20 legacy as a champion for postsecondary education, a fighter for rural Kentucky, and an  
21 embodiment of Kentucky values.

22 ➔Section 2. The members of the Senate honor Dr. Robert "Bob" L. Jackson upon  
23 his retirement as president of Murray State University on June 30, 2025, and wish him  
24 and his family well.

25 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
26 Resolution to Senate President Robert Stivers for delivery.