

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Johnnie L.
2 Turner.

3 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner was born on December 24, 1947, in Harlan County,
4 Kentucky, to the late Alonzo and Gladys Hyde Turner; and

5 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner grew up on Pine Mountain, the fourth of 11
6 children, and attended Pine Mountain Settlement School as well as the Red Bird Mission
7 School, where he worked on campus to pay for his books and tuition; and

8 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner forged a lifelong bond and love for the Red Bird
9 Mission School. There, he learned the value of a good work ethic and felt the school was
10 instrumental in shaping him into the person he became; and

11 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner served in the United States Army from 1967 to
12 1969, in the Panama Canal Zone, where he met the love of his life, Maritza, to whom he
13 was married for 55 years; and

14 WHEREAS, after serving his country, Johnnie L. Turner returned to Eastern
15 Kentucky and continued his education at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky,
16 where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting in 1974. In 1977,
17 he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law; and

18 WHEREAS, while attending both Union College and the University of Kentucky,
19 Johnnie L. Turner worked at International Harvester in Indiana and often traveled back
20 and forth for work to support his family; and

21 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner was a family man who practiced law in Harlan
22 County for 46 years. He served as the Harlan County School Board attorney for over 20
23 years, and as the City of Cumberland attorney for a number of years; and

24 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner served in the Kentucky House of Representatives,
25 representing District 88 from 1999 to 2002, and also in the Kentucky State Senate,
26 representing District 29 from 2020 to 2024; and

27 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner was an advocate and champion for Eastern

1 Kentucky, which he felt should not be overlooked. He was especially fond of his
2 constituents from Harlan, Bell, Letcher, Knott, and Floyd Counties and was committed to
3 seeing their quality of life improve; and

4 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner loved developing relationships, whether that be in
5 Frankfort, at a University of Kentucky ball game, the courthouse, school, or a church. He
6 was a fierce protector of his family and provided them with a sense of security. He was
7 also a source of guidance who readily shared his wisdom and life experiences with those
8 around him; and

9 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner passed away on October 22, 2024, surrounded by
10 his wife, Maritza, and his three children, Yazmin, Susan, and Johnnie Turner, Jr.,
11 following an accident where he was doing what he loved most, working outside and
12 taking care of his property and family; and

13 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Turner was an extraordinary man who lived his life to the
14 fullest and his family, friends, and community mourn his passing;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

18 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby expresses its most profound sympathy upon the
19 passing of Johnnie L. Turner.

20 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
21 memory of Johnnie L. Turner.

22 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
23 Resolution to Senator Scott Madon for delivery to the family.