

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Transportation Cabinet to include Richie
2 Weems and the Continental Five on the Country Music Highway in Pike County.

3 WHEREAS, Thomas Richard "Richie" Weems Sr. was born February 1, 1941, in
4 Weeksbury, Kentucky, to the late Louise Bailey and Thomas R. Weems; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1962, Richie Weems, along with band members Skip Franklin,
6 Richard Goff, Mike Johnson, James Osborne, and Dennis Walters created Richie Weems
7 and the Continental Five, becoming Pikeville's first rock and roll band. and

8 WHEREAS, Richie Weems and the Continental Five began playing live on the
9 WPKE radio station. The listener response was so positive that the band soon became a
10 part of the station's regular programming; and

11 WHEREAS, Richie Weems and the Continental Five became an incredibly popular
12 band locally in Pikeville, and even gained recognition outside the Commonwealth with
13 national airplay of two of their songs; and

14 WHEREAS, Richie Weems and the Continental Five released a cover of Kitty
15 Wells' song "Making Believe" which was played on radios nationally; and

16 WHEREAS, Richie Weems and the Continental Five released their original song
17 "Natural Born Man" in the fall of 1963, and it reached No. 52 on the Billboard's Top 100
18 chart; and

19 WHEREAS, following the success of their single "Natural Born Man," Richie
20 Weems and the Continental Five appeared on television to perform on Let's Dance, Club
21 13, and the Dick Clark Caravan of Stars Tour; and

22 WHEREAS, Richie Weems and the Continental Five spent five wonderful years
23 together as a band and have participated in many reunion shows through the years,
24 including the Pikeville High School reunion on July 28, 2000; and

25 WHEREAS, Richie Weems traversed these earthly bounds on July 6, 2022, and is
26 fondly remembered by his family, friends, and the surviving members of the Continental
27 Five; and

1 WHEREAS, it is appropriate the Richie Weems and the Continental Five's
2 accomplishments in the country music industry be tangibly recognized;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

5 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall honor the accomplishments of
6 Richie Weems and the Continental Five by including him on the Country Music Highway
7 on United States Highway 23 in Pike County, and shall within 30 days of the effective
8 date of this Resolution, erect appropriate signs denoting this designation.