

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the new bridge on United States Highway 119 in Letcher County at the Harlan County line in honor and memory of Gayle Lawson.

WHEREAS, Gayle Lawson was a graduate of Union College and the University of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Lawson retired in 1980 as a full professor at the Southeast Community College and later held the title of Professor Emeritus with the University of Kentucky Community College System; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Lawson spent nearly six decades of tireless work advocating to improve the highways in eastern Kentucky, particularly in Letcher and Harlan Counties; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 Gayle Lawson received a Citizen Advocate Award for Better Transportation in Eastern Kentucky, the Cumberland Valley Area Development District's Outstanding Service Award in 1997, the John D. Whisman Vision Award from the Development District Association of Appalachia in 2001, an Outstanding Service Award from the Legislative Research Commission for 25 years of continuous service as a charter member of its Special Advisory Committee of Senior Citizens, an Appreciation Award for dedicated service to the Harland County Committee on Aging in 2006, and in 2008, the Harlan County Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 93, Gayle Lawson traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby Kentucky's Congressional delegation on the need for reform in the ways in which Kentucky highway construction moneys are levied and distributed; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Lawson's volunteer public service to the people of Harlan County and eastern Kentucky touched the terms of 12 United States Presidents, from the Truman Administration into the Obama Administration, as well as 14 Governors, from Lawrence Wetherby to Steve Beshear; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Lawson departed these earthly bounds at the age of 94 after a lifetime of teaching, healing, building up, and speaking on behalf of those who never

mastered the power of words or whose voiced had been silenced;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the new bridge on United States Highway 119 in Letcher County at the Harlan County line as the "Gayle Lawson Memorial Bridge," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the appropriate signage.