

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Willa Brown Chappell.

2 WHEREAS, today this body honors one of the most courageous women ever born
3 in this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, Willa Beatrice Brown Chappell was born in Glasgow on January 22,
5 1906; and

6 WHEREAS, a graduate of Indiana State Teachers College and Northwestern
7 University, Willa Brown Chappell earned her pilot's license in 1937, becoming the first
8 African American woman to be licensed in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Willa Brown Chappell went on to become the first African American
10 officer in the Civil Air Patrol, and co-founded the National Airmen's Association of
11 America in an effort to enlist African Americans in the United States Air Force; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1940, Willa Brown Chappell started the Coffey School of
13 Aeronautics along with Lieutenant Cornelius R. Coffey, and at that institution more than
14 200 pilots were trained, some of which became part of the legendary unit known as the
15 Tuskegee Airmen; and

16 WHEREAS, Willa Brown Chappell remained a civil rights activist throughout her
17 life, particularly in Chicago. She ran for United States Congress three times and, late in
18 her life, dedicated her time and talent to that city's children, teaching in the Chicago
19 Public School System until 1971; and

20 WHEREAS, Willa Brown Chappell passed from this life on July 18, 1992, at the
21 age of 86; and

22 WHEREAS, Willa Brown Chappell's remarkable life and her profound
23 contributions to both the field of aviation and African American culture in this
24 Commonwealth are duly acknowledged and praised on this day; and

25 WHEREAS, in so doing, this body acknowledges the bust of Willa Brown Chappell
26 being displayed in the Capitol Rotunda, and encourages all Kentuckians to follow the
27 courageous lead of this extraordinary Kentuckian;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
3 *Kentucky:*

4 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor Willa Brown Chappell and
5 posthumously acknowledge her many and profound contributions to aviation, civil rights,
6 and public education in this country.

7 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Willa
8 Brown Chappell.

9 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
10 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas.