

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Judge
2 Steven D. Combs.

3 WHEREAS, upon the sudden passing of the Honorable Steven D. Combs, Judge of
4 the 35th Judicial Circuit, 2nd Division, on Monday, April 20, 2020, Pikeville and Pike
5 County, Kentucky, lost one of its greatest citizens and most beloved public officials; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Combs was born in Pikeville on January 17, 1960, the son of the
7 late Alcie and Donald Combs. He attended Pikeville Independent Schools and graduated
8 from Pikeville High School in 1978, where he was president of his senior class. Steve
9 twice competed in the Kentucky High School Golf State Tournament; and

10 WHEREAS, following high school, Judge Combs attended the University of
11 Kentucky, where he was in the honors program and was a member of Delta Tau
12 fraternity; he graduated with his bachelor's degree in 1983. Steve then attended and
13 graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1986, winning the Book
14 Award in his litigation skills course; he passed the Kentucky Bar that same year; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge Combs returned to Pikeville and married Teresa Hefner Combs
16 in 1987. He began practicing law with his older brother, Don, at Combs & Combs, P.S.C.
17 His younger brother, Bobby, later joined the two in private practice. Steve's interest in
18 politics led him to run for the Pikeville City Commission in 1988, and he was elected
19 Pikeville City Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem. He was elected Mayor of Pikeville in
20 1993; and

21 WHEREAS, while serving as Mayor, Steve also served on the board of the Public
22 Housing Authority of Pikeville, where he was chairman from 1996 to 1998. He returned
23 to the Pikeville City Commission in 2001, where he was again elected Pikeville City
24 Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem. In 2003, Steve was appointed Pike County Circuit Judge
25 for the 35th Judicial Circuit, 2nd Division, a position to which he was twice elected; and

26 WHEREAS, Judge Combs never lost an election, and was a lifelong Democrat. He
27 served on the bench until his death, dedicating his life to his community and serving

1 others. Before taking the bench, his law practice centered on the coal, oil, and gas
2 industries. He advised many local individuals and companies of all sizes. He was a strong
3 advocate for his clients. He was involved with many oil and gas partnerships, and was
4 active with his brothers in several businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Combs was a Christian and lifelong member of the Pikeville
6 United Methodist Church. He was an Eagle Scout (Troop 10) and member of the Order of
7 the Arrow-Brotherhood. He was a life member of the University of Kentucky Alumni
8 Association and a UK Fellow (Lafferty Society). Steve was also a founding member of
9 the board of directors of Pikeville College's School of Osteopathic Medicine; and

10 WHEREAS, Judge Combs never shied from difficult cases. He always had a keen
11 sense of both justice and equity. On one occasion, while in the grocery store, a frequent
12 criminal defendant shopping with his mother saw Judge Combs. The defendant
13 approached and said, "Mom, this is Judge Combs. He's my judge!" Such high esteem was
14 common among those who appeared before their judge; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge Combs and his wife were completely devoted to one another.
16 Together he and Teresa celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in March 2020; and

17 WHEREAS, Judge Combs was an avid upland bird hunter and outdoorsman,
18 enjoying farming, raising cattle, and his bird dogs. He loved golfing, especially in Sea
19 Pines on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. His children's pursuits from their school to
20 cheerleading to coaching his son's golf team were a primary focus. Steve especially
21 enjoyed traveling with Teresa to watch their son play collegiate golf. He loved to spend
22 time with his twin daughters. Steve was a very proud and attentive father; and

23 WHEREAS, Judge Combs is survived by his wife, Teresa, and their three children,
24 Amanda, Stephanie, and Noah (Margeaux), as well as his brothers, Donald (Leslie)
25 Combs of Pikeville and Robert (Afif) Combs of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. He
26 is also survived by his mother-in-law, Agnes M. Hefner, and her son, David (Cynthia)
27 Hefner of Pikeville. Judge Combs leaves behind a host of friends who will dearly miss

1 him and his wise counsel. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Alcie
2 Howard Combs; maternal grandparents, Noah D. and Edith Chase Howard; and paternal
3 grandparents, Emanuel and Mollie Napier Combs;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
6 *Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively,
8 hereby express their most profound sympathy upon the passing of Judge Steven D.
9 Combs, and posthumously thank him for his many contributions in service to the
10 Commonwealth.

11 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
12 memory of Judge Steven D. Combs.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
14 Resolution to Senator Phillip Wheeler for delivery to the family.