

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the memory of Senator Georgia Davis Powers and her
2 contributions to women's history.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky women of every race, class, and ethnic background have
4 made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Commonwealth in countless
5 recorded and unrecorded ways; and

6 WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early
7 leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

8 WHEREAS, March is Women's History Month, and during this month we celebrate
9 women who have been leaders not only in securing the rights of suffrage and equal
10 opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the
11 industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements which create
12 a more fair and just society for all; and

13 WHEREAS, despite these contributions, women in history have been consistently
14 overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching, and study of American history;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, today we recognize the historical contributions and achievements of
17 women at every opportunity; and

18 WHEREAS, a Kentucky native, Senator Georgia Davis Powers was the first woman
19 and the first person of color elected to the Senate, and served from January 1968, to
20 January 1989, when she chose to retire; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Powers served as chair of the Health and Welfare Committee
22 from 1970 to 1976 and the Labor and Industry Committee from 1978 to 1988; and

23 WHEREAS, during her tenure, Senator Powers was "regarded as the leading
24 advocate for blacks, women, children, the poor, and the handicapped"; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Powers sponsored bills prohibiting employment, sex, and age
26 discrimination, requiring an increase to the minimum wage, as well as statewide fair
27 housing legislation; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Powers was a leader of national significance in advocacy for
2 women's and civil rights; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Powers received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the
4 University of Kentucky and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the University
5 of Louisville; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Powers passed from this earth on January 30, 2016, at the age
7 of 92;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
10 *Kentucky:*

11 ➔Section 1. The Senate honors Senator Georgia Davis Powers for her
12 contributions to the history of women, people of color, and all Kentuckians.

13 ➔Section 2. The Senate honors the recorded and unrecorded contributions of all
14 women to the prosperity and character of the Commonwealth.

15 ➔Section 3. The Senate encourages all Kentuckians to explore the history of
16 Kentucky women and to honor Kentucky women who are making great contributions to
17 the Commonwealth today.

18 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
19 Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal.