

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Senator
2 Joe Bowen.

3 WHEREAS, on March 8, 2022, the Commonwealth of Kentucky lost a valued local
4 and state leader with the passing of Joe Bowen; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Rollin Bowen was born in Evansville, Indiana, and just six months
6 later, his family moved to Owensboro, Kentucky, where he attended Thruston Elementary
7 School, Daviess County Junior High School, and Daviess County High School; and

8 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Joe Bowen continued his education
9 by earning a degree from the University of Kentucky before joining the family business;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Joe Bowen's leadership skills led him to serve on the board of trustees
12 of the University of Kentucky, Owensboro YMCA, and Daviess County Hospital,
13 Incorporated, and to serve as a member of the Kentucky State Parks Foundation; and

14 WHEREAS, Joe Bowen was an advocate for youth sports, serving as a coach and
15 administrator for several youth sports organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, Joe Bowen began his state political career in the House of
17 Representatives in 2005, and he became a member of the State Senate in 2011; and

18 WHEREAS, during Joe Bowen's tenure in the legislature, he became a champion
19 for transparency and improvements to Kentucky's pension systems to ensure their future
20 solvency by not only chairing the State and Local Government Committee, whose
21 jurisdiction is pensions, but also co-chairing the Public Pension Oversight Board, and
22 after retiring from the legislature, serving on the Judicial Form Retirement Board; and

23 WHEREAS, Joe Bowen was a premier statesman. He personified public service and
24 courageously stood in the trenches to better the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

25 WHEREAS, Joe Bowen was known as "Lunchbox Joe" and "Papa Joe" to his many
26 grandkids; and

27 WHEREAS, those remaining to honor the memory of Joe Bowen include his wife

1 of 47 years, Vicki Conkright Bowen; son Adam Bowen and his wife Nicole; daughter Joy
2 Herbert and her husband Scott; grandchildren Rollin Herbert, Chase Herbert, Ally
3 Herbert, Mamie Bowen, and John "Jack" Bowen; and brothers Jerry Bowen and his wife
4 M'Alys, and John Bowen and his wife Cary; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Bowen was laid to rest on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at Elmwood
6 Cemetery, surrounded by loved ones, community members, and colleagues; and

7 WHEREAS, the Bowen family and the Commonwealth of Kentucky have lost a
8 strong, forward-thinking leader and advocate for western Kentucky;

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

12 ➔Section 1. The Senate does hereby express its most profound sympathy upon the
13 passing of Senator Joe Bowen, and posthumously thanks him for his service to this
14 honorable body.

15 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
16 memory of Senator Joe Bowen.

17 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
18 Resolution to Senator Matt Castlen for delivery.