

1           A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Nathaniel  
2 Jones.

3           WHEREAS, Nathaniel Jones served in the United States Army Air Corps during  
4 World War II; and

5           WHEREAS, Nathaniel Jones returned home and earned his undergraduate degree  
6 from Youngstown State University in 1951. He then went on to earn his law degree there  
7 in 1956 and was admitted to the bar the following year; and

8           WHEREAS, Nathaniel Jones was the first African-American appointed assistant  
9 U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio in 1962. He held that position until 1967  
10 when he was appointed assistant general counsel to President Lyndon B. Johnson's  
11 National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, called the Kerner Commission; and

12           WHEREAS, in 1969, Nathaniel Jones was asked to serve as general counsel for the  
13 NAACP by the executive director Roy Wilkins. For the next nine years, Jones directed  
14 all NAACP litigation, personally arguing several cases before the United States Supreme  
15 Court. He also coordinated national efforts to end northern school segregation, to defend  
16 affirmative action, and to inquire into discrimination against black servicemen in the  
17 United States military; and

18           WHEREAS, in 1979, Nathaniel Jones was nominated by President Jimmy Carter to  
19 a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The Senate confirmed  
20 him in October of 1979, and he became the senior judge in 1995. He sat on the bench  
21 until his retirement in March 2002; and

22           WHEREAS, Nathaniel Jones traveled to South Africa three times and served as an  
23 official election observer and helped to craft the country's new constitution; and

24           WHEREAS, after his retirement in May 2003, the second federal courthouse in his  
25 hometown of Youngstown, Ohio, was named in his honor; and

26           WHEREAS, in 2016, Nathaniel Jones was honored by the NAACP with their  
27 highest honor, the Spingarn Medal. Also in 2016, the National Underground Railroad

1 Freedom Center made him the 12th recipient of its ultimate prize, the International  
2 Freedom Conductor Award for people who exemplify the values of freedom and human  
3 rights worldwide; and

4 WHEREAS, Nathaniel Jones was a founding member and long-time supporter of  
5 the Metropolitan Club in Northern Kentucky. The University of Cincinnati named its  
6 Center for Race, Gender and Social Justice after Jones in 2019; and

7 WHEREAS, Nathaniel Jones, gentleman, legend, hero, and leader, departed this  
8 earthly life on January 26, 2020, leaving his family, his friends, and his community in  
9 solemn mourning; and

10 WHEREAS, Nathaniel Jones is preceded in death by his first wife, Jean Graham  
11 Jones; his second wife, Lillian Hawthorne Jones; his parents, Nathan B. Jones and Lillian  
12 Brown Jones Rafe; his brother Wellington Jones; and his sister, Eleanor Colclough. He  
13 is survived by his sister, Allie Jean Wooten; his daughters, Stephanie Jones and Pamela  
14 Velez; his sons, Rick Hawthorne, William Hawthorne, and Marc Hawthorne; his brother-  
15 in-law and sister-in-law, James and Lula Graham; eight grandchildren; and numerous  
16 nieces, nephews, and cousins;

17 NOW, THEREFORE,

18 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
19 ***Kentucky:***

20 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound  
21 sympathies upon the passing of Nathaniel Jones and extend heartfelt condolences to his  
22 family, his friends, and his community for their loss.

23 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving  
24 memory of Nathaniel Jones.

25 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
26 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for delivery.