

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of
2 Muhammad Ali.

3 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali was born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville,
4 Kentucky, on January 17, 1942; and

5 WHEREAS, at 12 years old, after a thief stole his bicycle, Muhammad Ali took up
6 the sport of boxing, learning under the legendary trainer Joe E. Martin; and

7 WHEREAS, as an amateur, Muhammad Ali won six Kentucky Golden Gloves
8 titles, an AAU national title, and took gold in the Summer Olympics in Rome, Italy, in
9 the summer of 1960, the same year he would graduate from Louisville's Central High
10 School; and

11 WHEREAS, as a professional boxer, Muhammad Ali would become famous for his
12 indelible style as much as his prodigious talent in the ring. Dubbed the Louisville Lip, he
13 was involved in some of the greatest heavyweight bouts in the luminous history of the
14 sport. On February 25, 1964, Ali would defeat Sonny Liston, becoming at age 22 the
15 youngest boxer to take the title from a reigning heavyweight champion; and

16 WHEREAS, after his stunning win against Liston, Muhammad Ali would utter a
17 phrase that would etch him in the annals of American sport: "I am the greatest!"; and

18 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali finished his career with 56 wins against only five
19 losses, retiring at age 39. He would capture the World Heavyweight Title three times and
20 defend it ten times, mostly notably in the "Thrilla in Manilla" on October 1, 1975,
21 arguably the greatest bout in boxing history and a fight which saw Ali beat Joe Frazier by
22 technical knockout after 14 grueling rounds; and

23 WHEREAS, it was in Muhammad Ali's life after boxing that he became an icon on
24 the world stage as a tireless advocate for equal rights for African-Americans, for people
25 of the Muslim faith, and for all oppressed human beings; and

26 WHEREAS, as a conscientious objector of the war in Vietnam, Muhammad Ali
27 was tried and convicted of draft evasion, a conviction that was overturned by the United

1 States Supreme Court on June 28, 1971; and

2 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali's stance against the Vietnam War, and his unwavering
3 belief in peace, was a standard of the later part of his life. Wherever the voices of those in
4 need rang out, Ali spoke. He traveled the world, including to Africa many times, always a
5 shining light in times of darkness, always a relentless symbol of hope to people who had
6 been victimized by oppression and violence; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1984, Muhammad Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's syndrome,
8 and he would spend the last years of his life debilitated by the cruelties of the disease.
9 And yet as he suffered, he maintained a public life, including on July 19, 1996, when he
10 famously lit the torch at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta; and

11 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali departed this earthly life on June 3, 2016, leaving all
12 who knew him and were lucky to have been touched by his presence in solemn mourning;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali is survived by his beloved wife, Lonnie Ali, and
15 several children and grandchildren, and it is rightful that this honorable body celebrate on
16 this day the many accomplishments of this beloved son of the Commonwealth;

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 sympathy upon the passing of Muhammad Ali, and extend heartfelt condolences to his
22 family and to all those who grieve for the loss of this American treasure.

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

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