

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Louisville
2 Metro Police Officer Zachary Cottongim.

3 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

4 Matthew 5:9

5 WHEREAS, on December, 18, 2021, Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD)
6 Officer Zachary Cottongim was tragically killed in the line of duty while attending to an
7 abandoned vehicle on Interstate 64 in Louisville, when he was struck by a motorist who
8 had lost control of the vehicle; and

9 WHEREAS, Zachary Cottongim was a graduate of Edmonson County High School,
10 and went on to receive his degree in Criminal Justice from Daymar College; and

11 WHEREAS, Zachary Cottongim fulfilled his lifelong dream when he was hired as
12 an LMPD officer in September 2014. At the time of his death, he was assigned to the
13 First Division which includes the Portland, Russell, and Butchertown neighborhoods; and

14 WHEREAS, the tragic accident that cost the life of this bright, talented young
15 officer had an immediate and profound effect on the entire department, according to
16 LMPD Chief Erika Shields, who stated, "There's an enormous amount of pain for many
17 people in a multitude of assignments. He trained officers, he worked different details. It's
18 heartbreaking. There's not much you can offer folks, especially when there's a death that's
19 so senseless and avoidable."; and

20 WHEREAS, the death of Officer Zachary Cottongim was an especially profound
21 loss for the department because his father, Dale Cottongim, is also an LMPD officer, and
22 his wife, Jamie, works as a civilian process technician for the department; and

23 WHEREAS, at his funeral service, Officer Zachary Cottongim was eulogized as a
24 shining example of what a police officer should be, as evidenced by a story of him
25 supplying a bus ticket and helping to pay part of the rehabilitation costs of an individual
26 struggling with addiction, and the attendees were encouraged to "Be Like Zach" every day
27 of their lives; and

1 WHEREAS, outside of his life as a police officer, Zachary Cottongim was a doting
2 father and a loving husband who cherished every minute with his family and made time
3 to play with his sons each night before bed, no matter how busy he was or how much his
4 job demanded of him; and

5 WHEREAS, Zachary Cottongim was preceded in death by his grandparents, Patsy
6 and Johnny Shillito, and Betty and Wayne Maggard; and mother-in-law, Kellie
7 McKenzie; and

8 WHEREAS, left to cherish the memory of Zachary Cottongim are his loving wife,
9 Jamie; sons, Riley and Alexander; father, Dale Cottongim; mother, Pamela Perkins; step-
10 mother, Natalie; step-father, Laumond Hodges; father-in-law, Timmy Decker; brothers,
11 Kase Cottongim and Kyton Smith; sisters, Erica Ellis (Jordan), Jessica Jones (Chad), and
12 Ashley McFelia; nephews, Oaklee Ellis and Carson McFelia; and nieces, Remi Ellis and
13 Arieal McFelia; and

14 WHEREAS, in addition to his family, Officer Zachary Cottongim is survived the
15 entire Louisville Metro Police Department; and an entire community who mourns the loss
16 of one of their protectors; and

17 WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of Officer Zachary Cottongim is eminently
18 laudable, and the sense of loss at his passing is only salved by the fond memories of a
19 loving husband, doting father, faithful friend, and dedicated public servant;

20 NOW, THEREFORE,

21 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
22 ***Kentucky:***

23 ➔Section 1. The members of this body do hereby join the family of Officer
24 Zachary Cottongim in mourning his passing and celebrating his life of service to the
25 citizens of the Commonwealth.

26 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
27 memory of Officer Zachary Cottongim.

- 1 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to
- 2 Senator Gerald Neal for presentation to the Cottongim family.