

1           A RESOLUTION honoring Senator Gerald Neal for receiving the Keepers of the  
2 Dream Freedom Award.

3           WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is widely regarded as the preeminent  
4 advocate for nonviolence in the United States and as one of the greatest nonviolent  
5 leaders in world history; and

6           WHEREAS, drawing from his Christian faith and through the peaceful teachings of  
7 the Mahatma Ghandi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a nonviolent movement in the 1950s  
8 and 1960s to achieve greater equality for African-Americans in the United States; and

9           WHEREAS, in tribute to the successes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and to  
10 continue his legacy of nonviolence and racial equality, those who exemplify his ideals are  
11 awarded the Keepers of the Dream Freedom Award; and

12           WHEREAS, as a testament to his endurance, tenacity, and advocacy for minorities  
13 and the underserved, Senator Gerald Neal continues Dr. King's legacy as the 2024  
14 recipient of the Keepers of the Dream Freedom Award; and

15           WHEREAS, Senator Neal has been a strong proponent of educational diversity and  
16 policy research and he founded the Kentucky African-American All Children's Caucus  
17 and the African-American Community Agenda Initiative; and

18           WHEREAS, Senator Neal was elected to the Kentucky Senate in 1989, the first  
19 African-American man and second African-American to be elected to the office. During  
20 his tenure in office, Senator Neal has been a staunch advocate for minorities, senior  
21 citizens, and the underserved. He has also championed equal educational opportunities  
22 and expansion of health care coverage; and

23           WHEREAS, in recognition of his diligent work and leadership, Senator Neal was  
24 inducted to the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2001, was named a Distinguished  
25 Alumni Law Fellow for the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law in 2006,  
26 received the Lawrence Grauman Award in 2017, and was elected as Leader of the  
27 Kentucky Senate Democratic Caucus in 2022; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Neal, through his public service, leadership, and tenacity for  
2 those voices who are sometimes forgotten, has continued the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther  
3 King Jr. in this Commonwealth, and the Senate hereby honors and congratulates him on  
4 his well-deserved award;

5           NOW, THEREFORE,

6 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
7 *Kentucky:*

8           ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate do hereby congratulate Senator Gerald  
9 Neal on his storied career and his achievement of the 2024 Keepers of the Dream  
10 Freedom Award.

11           ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
12 Resolution to Senator David Yates for delivery to Senator Gerald Neal.