

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the Joint Committee on the Library of
2 Congress replace one of Kentucky's Statues with that of Alice Allison Dunnigan and
3 creating the Kentucky Statuary Hall Commission.

4 WHEREAS, each of the 50 states have contributed up to two statues to the National
5 Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.; and

6 WHEREAS, Kentucky placed statues of Henry Clay and Ephriam McDowell in
7 1929 in the National Statuary Hall; and

8 WHEREAS, 2 U.S.C. Sec. 2132 was modified to provide that "Any state may
9 request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of a
10 statue the State has provided for display in Statuary Hall in the Capitol of the United
11 States"; and

12 WHEREAS, since this modification in 2000, eight states have replaced statues and
13 many more have either considered replacement statues or currently have replacements
14 pending; and

15 WHEREAS, Kentucky has not requested a replacement statue since the original
16 statues were provided in 1929; and

17 WHEREAS, Alice Allison Dunnigan, an African American teacher, journalist, and
18 civil rights activist, was born in Russellville, Kentucky, on April 27, 1906, in a small,
19 whitewashed cottage; and

20 WHEREAS, Dunnigan's grandparents were former enslaved people, her father was
21 a sharecropper, and her mother did laundry for a living; and

22 WHEREAS, Dunnigan attended Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute in
23 Frankfort, now Kentucky State University; and

24 WHEREAS, Dunnigan began an 18-year teaching career, teaching public school in
25 Logan County and Todd County from 1924 until 1942, and supplementing her small
26 salary with various other jobs such as whitewashing tombstones, working in a dairy,
27 cleaning houses, and washing for other families; and

1 WHEREAS, Dunnigan created Kentucky Fact Sheets during her teaching career to
2 pay homage to the contributions of African Americans in Kentucky and to teach her
3 students about their history; and

4 WHEREAS, Dunnigan moved to Washington, D.C., to work as a federal employee
5 from 1942 until 1946 while also taking night courses at Howard University; and

6 WHEREAS, Dunnigan began a job writing for the Louisville Defender, one of
7 Kentucky's largest African American weekly newspapers, as a correspondent in 1946; and

8 WHEREAS, while working for the Defender, Dunnigan published, "The
9 Achievements of Negroes in Kentucky"; and

10 WHEREAS, Dunnigan became the bureau chief of the Associated Negro Press in
11 1947, where she worked for 14 years supplying stories to 112 African American
12 newspapers across the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Dunnigan became the first African American woman to receive United
14 States National Accreditation in 1947, which allowed her to receive a White House press
15 pass to report on the White House and attend presidential press conferences; and

16 WHEREAS, Dunnigan was the first African American woman to sit in the Capitol
17 Press Gallery; and

18 WHEREAS, Dunnigan became the first African American female White House
19 Correspondent and member of the White House Correspondents' Association in 1948;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Dunnigan became the first African American woman elected to the
22 National Press Club in 1948; and

23 WHEREAS, Dunnigan made history in 1948 for being the first African American
24 woman on a presidential tour when she followed President Harry S. Truman's whistle-
25 stop tour; and

26 WHEREAS, after Dunnigan left her seat in the press, Lyndon B. Johnson, as
27 Kennedy's Vice President, named her as education consultant of the President's

1 Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity in 1961, where she remained until 1965;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Dunnigan was an information specialist for the Department of Labor
4 from 1966 until 1967 and traveled across the country enforcing the newly passed Civil
5 Rights laws; and

6 WHEREAS, Dunnigan served as associate editor for the President's Commission on
7 Youth Opportunity from 1967 through 1970; and

8 WHEREAS, Dunnigan officially retired in 1969, and following her retirement
9 published her autobiography, "A Black Woman's Experience: From Schoolhouse to
10 White House," in 1974, and then published "The Fascinating Story of Black
11 Kentuckians," in 1982; and

12 WHEREAS, Dunnigan was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame,
13 the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame, and the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame; and

14 WHEREAS, Dunnigan died in 1983 in Washington, D.C.; and

15 WHEREAS, Dunnigan was inducted into the National Association of Black
16 Journalists Hall of Fame in 2013; and

17 WHEREAS, Dunnigan's life is commemorated by a Kentucky Historical Society
18 highway marker in Russellville's downtown city park; and

19 WHEREAS, Dunnigan's descendants and other Kentuckians gathered in
20 Russellville to celebrate her life and unveil a life-sized bronze statue in her honor on
21 August 2, 2019, as the centerpiece of the park dedicated to the struggle for civil rights;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the statue depicts Dunnigan based on a 1947 photo of her on the steps
24 of the United States Capitol holding a copy of the Washington Post; and

25 WHEREAS, during her life, Dunnigan provided front page coverage for civil rights
26 issues for over 100 newspapers; and

27 WHEREAS, Dunnigan received over 50 awards in journalism in her lifetime,

1 including awards from groups outside of the United States, praising her fight against
2 injustice; and

3 WHEREAS, Dunnigan endured many racial and gender-based indignities during her
4 years covering the White House, including being seated with servants while covering
5 Senator Robert Taft's funeral; and

6 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor Alice Allison Dunnigan as one of two
7 Kentuckians memorialized by statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection given her
8 significant impact in the State of Kentucky and her legacy in the United States as both a
9 journalist and as a champion for racial justice and gender equality;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

12 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly hereby respectfully requests the Joint
13 Committee on the Library of Congress approve the replacement of the statue of Ephriam
14 McDowell in the National Statuary Hall collection with a statue of Alice Allison
15 Dunnigan. Contingent upon approval by the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress,
16 ownership of the statue of Ephriam McDowell shall transfer to the state in accordance
17 with 2 U.S.C. Sec. 2132(d). The Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State
18 shall take possession of the returned statue and make the statue available for public
19 display.

20 ➔Section 2. This Resolution serves as an official request to the Joint Committee
21 on the Library of Congress pursuant to 2 U.S.C. Sec. 2132.

22 ➔Section 3. On the effective date of this Resolution, the Clerk of the Senate shall
23 deliver a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
24 of the United States House of Representatives, the Joint Committee on the Library of
25 Congress, and to each member of the Kentucky delegation to the United States Congress.

26 ➔Section 4. The Kentucky Statuary Hall Commission is hereby created for the
27 purpose of assisting with the process of implementing the placement of the statue of Alice

1 Allison Dunnigan in the National Statuary Hall collection, including raising and
2 managing funds and providing financial support for that effort. The Commission shall:

3 (1) Be responsible for the selection of a sculptor for the Alice Allison Dunnigan statue
4 as well as for paying any costs incurred for placing the statue in the United States
5 Capitol, including costs incurred for all of the following:

6 (a) Paying the sculptor;

7 (b) Carving or casting the statue;

8 (c) Creating a pedestal and any inscription;

9 (d) Transporting the statue and pedestal to the United States Capitol;

10 (e) Removing and transporting the replaced statue;

11 (f) Temporarily erecting the new statue in the Rotunda of the Capitol for the
12 unveiling ceremony; and

13 (g) Any other expenses that the Kentucky Statuary Hall Commission finds to be
14 necessary; and

15 (2) Consist of the following seven (7) members:

16 (a) Two (2) members of the Kentucky Arts Council appointed by the executive
17 director of the council;

18 (b) One (1) member from the Kentucky Humanities Council appointed by the
19 chair of the council;

20 (c) One (1) member of the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission
21 appointed by the chair of the Kentucky African American Heritage
22 Commission; and

23 (d) Three (3) citizen members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom shall
24 be designated by the Governor as the chair of the commission.