

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the Transylvania University women's basketball team,
2 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III National Champions and 2024
3 Final Four participants.

4 WHEREAS, on April 1, 2023, at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, the
5 Transylvania University Pioneers defeated the Captains of Christopher Newport
6 University by a score of 57 to 52 to win the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic
7 Association (NCAA) Division III Women's Basketball championship; and

8 WHEREAS, the Pioneers trailed the number-one-ranked and previously unbeaten
9 Captains by as many as nine points in the first quarter, but turned up the defensive energy
10 with great success to lead by two points at halftime, allowing Christopher Newport to
11 score only six points in the second quarter and forcing 13 first-half turnovers; and

12 WHEREAS, Transylvania began the second half on a 13-2 scoring run and built a
13 lead as large as 13 points. The Captains slowly chipped away at that advantage though,
14 and the game was twice tied inside the final three minutes, until a Dasia Thornton layup
15 with 43 seconds remaining broke a 49-49 tie; and

16 WHEREAS, playing prominent roles in the 2023 championship game win were
17 senior guard Madison Kellione, who scored 17 points and had seven rebounds; senior
18 forward Dasia Thornton, who posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds;
19 and senior guard Kennedy Stacy, who had eight points, 11 rebounds, and eight steals; and

20 WHEREAS, the national championship, the first in the history of the school in any
21 sport, capped off a perfect 33-0 season for the Pioneers; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2024, the Pioneers were again in the spotlight, winning their first 31
23 games before falling to eventual national champion New York University in the Final
24 Four; and

25 WHEREAS, these results, combined with the Pioneers' Elite Eight appearance in
26 2022, have solidified Transylvania as a force to be reckoned with in the sport, with a
27 record of 130 wins against only 11 losses in the last five seasons, as well as six

1 consecutive Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships; and

2 WHEREAS, the architect of this Pioneers renaissance in women's basketball is
3 head coach Juli Fulks, who in 10 years at Transylvania has compiled a record of 242 wins
4 and 39 losses. Fulks also won the Pat Summit Trophy in 2024 when she was named
5 National Coach of the Year in Division III by the Women's Basketball Coaches
6 Association; and

7 WHEREAS, the achievements of the Transylvania women's basketball program
8 have shone a bright light on the talent, dedication, and teamwork of a remarkable group
9 of young women who have brought positive attention to the school and the
10 Commonwealth, and who are worthy recipients of public acclaim;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
13 ***Kentucky:***

14 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate join Senator Reginald Thomas in saluting
15 the Transylvania Pioneers for their 2023 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball
16 championship and their 2024 Final Four run, applauding their tremendous run of
17 excellence, and wishing all of the teams members, coaches, and staff good fortune in all
18 future endeavors.

19 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
20 Senator Reginald Thomas for presentation to the team.