

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Transylvania University women's basketball Associate
2 Head Coach Hannah Varel, 2024 Women's Basketball Coaches Association National
3 Assistant Coach of the Year.

4 WHEREAS, Hannah Varel, the Associate Head Coach for the Transylvania
5 University women's basketball team, was recently named by the Women's Basketball
6 Coaches Association (WBCA) as the 2024 National Assistant Coach of the Year for the
7 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III level; and

8 WHEREAS, the award is presented annually to an assistant coach based on their
9 commitment to their program, student-athletes, and head coach; their impact coaching on
10 court; their mentorship and impact on other coaches; and their professional manner and
11 attitude; and

12 WHEREAS, the award is another in a series of recognitions received by Hannah
13 Varel, who was a WBCA "Thirty Under 30" honoree in 2023, identifying her as one of
14 30 up-and-coming women's basketball coaches under the age of 30 at all levels of the
15 collegiate game; and

16 WHEREAS, Hannah Varel is graduate of the University of Missouri, where she
17 earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Accountancy while playing club
18 basketball; and

19 WHEREAS, Hannah Varel became a certified public accountant after graduation,
20 and, while working for an accounting firm, Varel gained coaching experience as an
21 assistant women's basketball coach at Columbia High School in Columbia, Missouri,
22 from 2015 through 2018; and

23 WHEREAS, after two years as an assistant coach at Hanover College, Hannah
24 Varel joined the coaching staff at Transylvania; and

25 WHEREAS, since joining the Pioneers in the 2020-2021 season, Hannah Varel has
26 helped the Pioneers win four consecutive Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference
27 Championships while helping lead the team to three straight undefeated regular seasons,

1 three Elite Eight appearances, back-to-back NCAA Final-Four appearances, and the 2023
2 National Championship; and

3 WHEREAS, Transylvania women's basketball Head Coach Juli Fulks says of
4 Hannah Varel, "Hannah is an exceptionally hardworking coach with a natural ability to
5 connect with players on and off the court. She understands what championship basketball
6 requires and is an excellent addition to our staff and basketball family.";

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
9 ***Kentucky:***

10 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate join Senator Reginald Thomas in saluting
11 the Hannah Varel, Associate Head Coach for the Transylvania University women's
12 basketball team, upon the occasion of her being named the 2024 WBCA National
13 Assistant Coach of the Year, applauding the outstanding work she has done with the
14 Pioneers, and wishing her good fortune in all future endeavors.

15 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
16 Senator Reginald Thomas for presentation to Hannah Varel.