

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of former
2 University of Kentucky basketball coach Joe B. Hall.

3 WHEREAS, Joe Beasman Hall was born on November 30, 1928 in Cynthiana,
4 Kentucky, the son of the late Charles Curtis "Bill" Hall, a dry-cleaning plant operator and
5 former Harrison County Sheriff, and Ruth Hall, a florist; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe B. Hall was an outstanding student and athlete at Cynthiana High
7 School, where he lettered three seasons in football and basketball, was captain of both
8 teams as a senior, and was voted class president in each of his four years of high school;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Joe B. Hall started his collegiate basketball career at UK, where he
11 was a reserve on the 1948-49 team before transferring to the University of the South in
12 Sewanee, Tennessee, from which he graduated in 1951; and

13 WHEREAS, Joe B. Hall began his post-college life in business, including a stint as
14 a ketchup salesman, before he turned to coaching at Shepherdsville High School, where,
15 in his second season, he was named conference Coach of the Year; and

16 WHEREAS, Joe B. Hall later became head coach at Regis College in Denver for
17 five seasons before moving for one season to Central Missouri State. He then returned to
18 UK in 1965 as an assistant to legendary head coach Adolph Rupp, where his
19 contributions were immediate and significant, including establishing a strength and
20 conditioning program which became the standard at the time; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1972, after seven seasons as an assistant coach, Joe B. Hall was
22 named the successor to Adolph Rupp, the first and, to date, the only native-born
23 Kentuckian to be UK coach since 1927. When asked of Hall's feelings about taking over
24 the head coaching job at the university he loved so deeply, his son-in-law, Mike Summers
25 said, "It was not just another coaching job to him. It was THE coaching job."; and

26 WHEREAS, the beginning of Hall's tenure as UK coach was rocky, with the team
27 struggling to a 13-13 record in his second year, giving rise to many vocal critics,

1 including his predecessor, whose criticism belied his resentment at being forced to retire
2 in 1972; and

3 WHEREAS, although Joe B. Hall refused to criticize Rupp or complain about how
4 the situation made his life more difficult, the strain was obvious. As long-time Lexington
5 sportscaster Tom Hammond noted, "I think that rolled-up program he always had in his
6 hand was pretty indicative of how he was feeling. I really believe that men of lesser
7 character than Coach Hall would have crumbled under that."; and

8 WHEREAS, over the course of the next decade, Joe B. Hall quieted his critics,
9 compiling a record of 297 wins and 100 losses while leading his team to the NCAA Final
10 Four in 1975, 1978, and 1984, and, in 1978, winning the school's first national
11 championship in 20 years, as well as winning eight Southeastern Conference
12 championships and being named conference Coach of the Year four times; and

13 WHEREAS, during his tenure as coach from 1972 to 1985, Joe B. Hall coached
14 seven All-Americans at Kentucky: Jack Givens, Rick Robey, Kyle Macy, Sam Bowie,
15 Melvin Turpin, Kenny Walker, and Kevin Grevey; and completed the process of fully
16 integrating the Wildcat program; and

17 WHEREAS, Leonard Hamilton, former assistant coach under Hall at UK and
18 current head coach at Florida State University, summed up the feeling of many who
19 worked alongside Coach Hall when he said, "We have all lost an icon in Kentucky
20 Basketball history. Joe Hall, in my opinion, was one of the strongest guardians of
21 Kentucky basketball. He will forever be in all of our hearts; he loved Kentucky with a
22 passion like no other."; and

23 WHEREAS, in retirement, Joe B. Hall was able to enjoy the fruits of his long labor,
24 running his horse farm and teaming with former University of Louisville coach Denny
25 Crum, a friend and former rival, as hosts of a sports radio call-in show, where the tense
26 coach under fire became the amiable friend who was quick with a joke, prompting
27 veteran sportswriter Billy Reed to comment, "After he retired, it's like he reverted to the

1 real Joe Hall. All of a sudden, he was the guy I had known before he had got the
2 Kentucky job, and I was really glad to see that."; and

3 WHEREAS, perhaps the most enjoyment Joe B. Hall experienced during his later
4 years in life was reverting back to the role of Kentucky fan, completing a circle that began
5 as a child listening to Wildcat games on the radio in Cynthiana, and developing a special
6 relationship with current Wildcat head coach John Calipari in which Hall embraced his
7 role as the grandfather of the program and its players; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2012, Joe B. Hall was honored with a statue in front of the Wildcat
9 Coal Lodge, depicting him seated on a sideline chair in his typical coaching attire of a
10 blue blazer, a gesture that touched him deeply. When asked about his father-in-law
11 reaching this beloved status, Mike Summers said, "People now realize what we in the
12 family have always known about him. That he is a person with impeccable character, and
13 genuinely a great person."; and

14 WHEREAS, Joe B. Hall left these earthly bonds early on the morning of January
15 15th, 2022; fittingly, later that afternoon, his beloved Wildcats played their best game of
16 the year in throttling the hated Volunteers of the University of Tennessee, 107-79; and

17 WHEREAS, Joe B. Hall was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 55 years,
18 Katharine, and is survived by three children: daughters Judy Derrickson and Kathy
19 Summers, and a son, Steven Hall; as well as three grandchildren and three great-
20 grandchildren; and a vast network of friends, former players, and rival coaches, by whom
21 he will be sorely missed and fondly remembered;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
24 ***Kentucky:***

25 ➡Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively, do
26 hereby express their deepest sympathy upon the passing of Joe B. Hall, and posthumously
27 honor him for his dedication to University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth.

1 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
2 memory of Joe B. Hall.

3 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
4 Resolution to Senator Steve West for delivery to the Hall family.

5 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
6 Resolution to University of Kentucky Men's Basketball Coach John Calipari, c/o UK
7 Athletics, Joe Craft Center, 338 Lexington Avenue, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-8000.