

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the University of Kentucky Women's Basketball Team,
2 2022 Southeastern Conference Tournament Champions.

3 WHEREAS, On March 6, 2022, before a raucous crowd of 7,997 at the Bridgestone
4 Arena in Nashville, Tennessee, the University of Kentucky Wildcats defeated the
5 Gamecocks of the University of South Carolina by a score of 64-62 to capture the 2022
6 Southeastern Conference Women's Basketball Championship; and

7 WHEREAS, the SEC Tournament championship marked the first for the Wildcats
8 since 1982 and erased a history of recent frustrations in the event, including runner-up
9 finishes in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014; and

10 WHEREAS, after an opening round win against Mississippi State, the Wildcats, the
11 seventh-seeded team in the tournament, completed their shocking run by knocking off the
12 top three seeds in the tournament, Louisiana State, Tennessee, and South Carolina,
13 becoming just the third team in SEC history, and the first since Vanderbilt in 2004, to win
14 the crown by winning four games on four consecutive days; and

15 WHEREAS, in the quarterfinals against LSU, which was ranked sixth in the nation,
16 the Wildcats, led by All-American Rhyne Howard's 32 points, blew out to a 20 point
17 halftime lead and defeated the Tigers 78-63; and

18 WHEREAS, in the semifinals, Kentucky faced Tennessee, ranked 18th nationally
19 and one of the most storied programs in the history of women's college basketball, and
20 led by Howard's 24 points, 9 rebounds, and 7 assists, cruised to an 83-74 win; and

21 WHEREAS, in the championship game against South Carolina, the top ranked team
22 in the entire nation and winners of six of the last seven SEC tournaments, the Wildcats
23 were behind by 12 points entering the 4th quarter and their prospects looked dim; and

24 WHEREAS, still trailing 62-53 with five minutes left in the game, the Wildcats
25 went on an unbelievable 11-0 run, capped off by Dre'una Edwards three-point shot with
26 five seconds left to shock the Gamecocks and clinch the title and an automatic berth to
27 the 2022 NCAA Tournament; and

1 WHEREAS, the Wildcats were led on the floor in the tournament, as they have
2 been all year, by senior All-American Rhyné Howard, who averaged 22 points a game
3 over the four games and was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament; and

4 WHEREAS, Howard was joined on the All-Tournament Team by junior forward
5 Dre'una Edwards, who, in addition to hitting the game-winning basket, scored 27 points
6 and garnered 9 rebounds in the championship game; and

7 WHEREAS, the remarkable, amazing, and completely unexpected run to the
8 championship capped off one of the greatest in-season turnarounds in college basketball
9 history; and

10 WHEREAS, less than one month before the championship game, on February 10,
11 after a loss to South Carolina on the heels of a home loss in overtime to Texas A&M, the
12 Wildcats had an overall record of 9 wins and 11 losses, and just 2 wins in the SEC, and a
13 season in which the team started with just nine scholarship players looked like it was
14 going to be further derailed by injuries and other off-court issues; and

15 WHEREAS, instead, the Wildcats proceeded to win their last six regular season
16 games, and enter the NCAA Tournament as the hottest team in the country; and

17 WHEREAS, the Wildcats were coached to victory by Kentucky native Kyra Elzy,
18 who in two seasons has amassed a record of 37 wins against 20 losses, along with
19 assistant coaches Niya Butts, Amber Smith, and Gail Goestenkors; and

20 WHEREAS, the Wildcats team included Jada Walker, Robyn Benton, Jazmine
21 Massengill, Treasure Hunt, Olivia Owens, Emma King, Nyah Leveretter, and Blair
22 Green; and

23 WHEREAS, the perseverance and determination of shown by the University of
24 Kentucky Women's Basketball Team during the 2022 season serves as a reminder to us
25 all that things are never quite as difficult as they appear, and that obstacles can be
26 overcome;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
2 *Kentucky:*

3 ➔Section 1. The members of this body, both individually and collectively, do
4 hereby honor the University of Kentucky Wildcats, head coach Kyra Elzy, and all the
5 assistant coaches and support staff, upon winning the 2022 Southeastern Conference
6 Women's Basketball Tournament, and wish them the best of luck in the upcoming NCAA
7 Tournament and in all future endeavors.

8 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
9 Senator Reggie Thomas for presentation to the team.