

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the Sacred Heart Academy Valkyries, 2023 KHSAA
2 Girls' Sweet Sixteen Basketball Champions.

3 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2023, before a crowd of 3,774 fans at Rupp Arena in
4 Lexington, the Sacred Heart Academy Valkyries defeated the Mustangs of McCracken
5 County High School by a score of 68 to 53 to capture the 2023 Kentucky High School
6 Athletic Association Girls' Sweet Sixteen Basketball Championship; and

7 WHEREAS, the semifinals and finals of the tournament, both played on the same
8 day, were a study in contrasts. Junior guard Reagan Bender, scoreless in the first half of
9 the semifinal with George Rogers Clark, scored 21 second half points as the Valkyries
10 edged the Lady Cardinals 57-53. In the championship game, sophomore ZaKiyah
11 Johnson led the way, scoring 30 points as the team shot 71 percent from the field and the
12 game was never in doubt; and

13 WHEREAS, the state championship was the school's seventh, and the third in a row
14 for the dominant Sacred Heart squad, the second time in school history it has won three
15 consecutive state championships, having previously accomplished it from 2002 to 2004;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the victory in the championship game punctuated a season that saw the
18 Valkyries compile a record of 36 wins against only 3 losses, go undefeated against teams
19 from the Commonwealth, and outscore their opponents by an average of 28 points a
20 game; and

21 WHEREAS, the Valkyries were led by sophomore ZaKiyah Johnson, who averaged
22 22.5 points and 8 rebounds a game over the course of the entire season, and earned Sweet
23 Sixteen MVP honors with a 24-point average in the tournament; and

24 WHEREAS, other members of the Valkyries who were named to the All-
25 Tournament team were Reagan Bender, who averaged 19 points a game, and senior guard
26 Triniti Ralston, who averaged almost 8 assists per game; and

27 WHEREAS, other members of the team were juniors Allea Holbrook, Emi-Lee

1 Howe, Angelina Pelayo, Claire Russell, and Abigail Wolff; sophomores Morgan Frey
2 and Caroline Osting; freshmen Kat Cummins and Gabby DeCamillis; and manager
3 Audrey Potempa; and

4 WHEREAS, the Valkyries were coached by Donna Moir, who earned a record sixth
5 championship, and assistants Presley Brown, Matthew E. Carson, David Green, Frederick
6 Moir, Jr., Crystal L. Riley II, and Amy Siegel; and

7 WHEREAS, with the Valkyries losing only one senior off the three-time defending
8 state champions, hopes are high that the team can win an unprecedented fourth
9 consecutive state championship in 2024; and

10 WHEREAS, the display of talent, skill, dedication, and hard work shown by the
11 Sacred Heart Valkyries is a model for all young people to emulate, and their
12 accomplishments are certainly worthy of public recognition;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
15 ***Kentucky:***

16 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate join Senator Julie Raque Adams in
17 congratulating the Sacred Heart Valkyries and Coach Donna Moir on their winning the
18 2023 KHSAA Girls' Sweet Sixteen Championship, saluting their tradition of basketball
19 excellence, and wishing the team and coaches good fortune in all future endeavors.

20 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
21 the Senator Julie Raque Adams for presentation to the team.