

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the University of Louisville Women's Basketball Team
2 upon reaching the 2022 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship Final Four.

3 WHEREAS, on March 28, 2022, before a frenzied crowd of 4,695 at Intrust Bank
4 Arena in Wichita, Kansas, the Louisville Cardinals defeated the Wolverines of Michigan
5 by a score of 62 to 50 to win the Wichita Regional and advance to the Final Four of the
6 2022 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship; and

7 WHEREAS, holding a precarious two-point lead of 52 to 50 with just under six
8 minutes remaining in the contest, the Cardinals' defense clamped down with a vengeance,
9 holding the Wolverines scoreless for the last five minutes and 40 seconds of the game,
10 while their offense scored ten consecutive points to seal the win; and

11 WHEREAS, this will be the fourth trip to the Women's Final Four in the Cardinals'
12 history, having previously been national runners-up in 2009 and 2013, and national
13 semifinalists in 2018; and

14 WHEREAS, the victory against Michigan continues a storybook 2022 season for
15 the top-seeded Louisville squad, whose current record on the season stands at 29 wins
16 against only 4 losses; and

17 WHEREAS, the Cardinals have been led on this tournament run by sophomore
18 guard Hailey Van Lith, who led the team in scoring in the regional final with 22 points,
19 became the first player in school history to have four consecutive 20-point games in the
20 NCAA Tournament, and was named Most Outstanding Player of the Wichita Regional;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Louisville is not a one-woman show by any stretch of the imagination,
23 enjoying significant contributions senior forward Emily Engstler, who joined Van Lith on
24 the All-Regional Tournament Team; senior guard Kianna Smith, the team's second-
25 leading scorer on the season; graduate guard Chelsie Hall, who scored 15 points in the
26 regional final; and sophomore forward Olivia Cochran, who scored her team's last three
27 baskets against Michigan despite wearing a mask to protect an eye injury she suffered in

1 the previous game; and

2 WHEREAS, other members of the Louisville squad include freshmen Alexia
3 Mobley, Payton Verhulst, and Sydni Schetnan; sophomores Ramani Parker and Merissah
4 Russell; junior Norika Konno; and seniors Ahlana Smith, Mykasa Robinson, and Liz
5 Dixon; and

6 WHEREAS, the Cardinals are coached by Jeff Walz, who has compiled a record of
7 414-112 since taking over as head coach in 2007 and has transformed the Louisville
8 program from one which, prior to his arrival, had never advanced to the Sweet Sixteen of
9 the NCAA Tournament, to one that has won 37 tournament games and advanced to the
10 Sweet Sixteen 11 times during his tenure; and

11 WHEREAS, Coach Walz was ably assisted by Associate Head Coach Stephanie
12 Norman and Assistant Coaches Sam Purcell and Jonneshia Pineda; and

13 WHEREAS, the 15-year run of success enjoyed by the University of Louisville's
14 Women's Basketball Team is a testament to the benefits of hard work, perseverance,
15 dedication, and attention to detail, and is certainly worthy of public recognition and
16 acclaim; and

17 WHEREAS, although Louisville faces a challenging upcoming Final Four contest
18 against the top-ranked Gamecocks of South Carolina, there is no doubt that, regardless of
19 the outcome of that or any other future contest, the accomplishments of this particular
20 group of student athletes will hold a special place in the hearts of Cardinal fans forever;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

24 ➔Section 1. The members of this body, both individually and collectively, do
25 hereby join Senator Gerald Neal in congratulating the University of Louisville Women's
26 Basketball Team, Head Coach Jeff Walz, and the assistant coaches and support staff,
27 upon the fourth NCAA Basketball Championship Final Four appearance in school

1 history, and wishing them all good fortune, not only in the Final Four, but in all future
2 endeavors.

3 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
4 Senator Gerald Neal for presentation to the team.