

A RESOLUTION honoring Scott Payton upon being the recipient of the 2016 Vic Hellard Jr. Award for exemplary public service.

WHEREAS, the Vic Hellard Jr. Award was created in 1997 to recognize outstanding public service in the spirit he brought to it: good humor, compassion, vision, a reverence for history, and an unwavering belief in the workings of democracy and in the innate American goodness of the people of Kentucky, all expressed through his core conviction that public service is a citizen's highest civic calling; and

WHEREAS, the Vic Hellard Jr. Award is presented to someone who embodied the values Hellard brought to his long career. The recipient is a public servant of vision who appreciates history while finding innovative approaches to hard problems, someone who champions the equality and dignity of all, nurtures the processes of a democratic society, promotes public dialogue while educating and fostering civic engagement, and who approaches that work with commitment, caring, generosity, and humor; and

WHEREAS, Scott Payton, the recipient of the 2016 Vic Hellard Jr. Award, embodies all those attributes; and

WHEREAS, Scott Payton worked in the Legislative Research Commission's Public Information Office for more than 20 years, including nine years as the agency's Public Information Officer. In that role, he oversaw the modernization of the Public Information Office's communications shop and nurtured its growth into one of the most respected in the country. He also pioneered the office's radio communications, and guided its successful growth into web-based communications and digital photography; and

WHEREAS, Scott Payton was an extremely gifted writer who was lauded across the Commonwealth for his legislative wrap-ups. Always fair and relentlessly inquisitive about the legislative process, Scott's beloved "This Week in Frankfort" pieces were mentioned in a 2012 *Courier-Journal* piece by John David Dyche, who wrote that Scott "presents relevant information in an elegant and entertaining way," and noted his unique gift for summing up complex legislative issues with his trademark flair and style; and

WHEREAS, Scott Payton's influence can still be seen in LRC's Public Information Office: his unwavering commitment to nonpartisanship has become part of the firmament on which that office still stands, and his exemplary work continues to serve as a touchstone for those seeking to clearly engage with Kentuckians about the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his many contributions during his service to the Legislative Research Commission, for his careful and profound mentorship of a generation of legislative writers, and for truly embodying the spirit of civic engagement that Vic Hellard Jr. once championed, Scott Payton is hereby honored on this day upon being the recipient of the 2016 Vic Hellard Jr. Award;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors Scott Payton upon being the recipient of the 2016 Vic Hellard Jr. Award, and acknowledges his profound and lasting legacy in the Public Information Office at the Legislative Research Commission.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Scott Payton.