

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Dr. Pearse
2 Lyons.

3 "If you can't sell Kentucky as a place to do business, then you're not in any shape or
4 form a salesman, because it's an easy sell."—Pearse Lyons

5 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has lost one of its most treasured
6 sons. Dr. Pearse Lyons, businessman, philanthropist, and innovator, has passed at the age
7 of 73; and

8 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons was born on August 3, 1944, to the late Thomas Kevin
9 and Margaret Lyons on Dundalk, Ireland; and

10 WHEREAS, on his mother's side, Pearse Lyons came from five generations of
11 coopers who supplied barrels to distilleries in Ireland. His mother, the owner of a small
12 grocery store, was credited as the inspiration behind his business acumen; and

13 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons was educated at University College Dublin, where he
14 graduated with first-class honors. He went on to study at the British School of Malting
15 and Brewing in Birmingham, where he earned master's and doctoral degrees, and was the
16 first Irishman to receive a formal degree in brewing and distilling from the university; and

17 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons interned at the Guinness and Harp Lager Breweries and
18 worked as a biochemist for Irish Distillers, the makers of Jameson Whiskey; and

19 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons married his cherished wife, Deirdre, in 1972. Their
20 daughter, Aoife Louise, was born in 1973, and their son, Mark, was born in 1976; and

21 WHEREAS, also in 1976, Pearse Lyons moved to the United States, having been
22 asked by Irish distillery Gems Whisky to help ethanol distillers in Kentucky improve their
23 processes; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1980, Pearse Lyons launched his own business. Alltech was begun
25 on an initial investment of \$10,000 in his garage, with just enough money left over to pay
26 for groceries and the mortgage. In its first year of operation, Alltech earned over a million
27 dollars; and

1 WHEREAS, Alltech's name is based on the initials of Pearse and Deirde's daughter,
2 Aoife Louise Lyons. The company's logo color was their son Mark's choice; and

3 WHEREAS, Alltech would become the fastest-growing company in the global
4 animal health and nutrition industry; and

5 WHEREAS, Alltech has a global team of more than 5,000 people, and the
6 company's mission has always been guided by Pearse Lyons' early commitment to the
7 "ACE principle," which is the promise that the company's work must have a positive
8 impact on the Animal, the Consumer, and the Environment; and

9 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons used his monumental success at Alltech to begin other
10 initiatives that would profoundly impact this Commonwealth. In 1980, he established The
11 Alcohol School in Lexington, which he would run for 25 years. He also co-authored *The*
12 *Alcohol Textbook*, which became a key source for the beverage, fuel, and industrial
13 alcohol industries; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1999, Pearse Lyons purchased the Lexington Brewing Company
15 and renamed it the Alltech Lexington Brewing and Distilling Company. The company
16 began bottling and distilling whiskey, and in 2012 Town Branch Distillery, the first new
17 distillery to be built in Lexington in more than a century, opened across the street from
18 the brewery; and

19 WHEREAS, for his contributions to science and industry, Pearse Lyons was named
20 Business Person of the Year by *Business and Finance* Magazine. He also received the
21 prestigious Ireland-U.S. Council Award for Outstanding Achievement, and Irish Prime
22 Minister Enda Kenny recognized him with the St. Patrick's Day Science Medal in
23 recognition of creating a global business based on scientific research. He also received the
24 Henry Clay Medallion for Distinguished Service, and was selected to receive the
25 Commander's Award for Public Service; and

26 WHEREAS, Pearse and Deirdre Lyons shared a deep passion for education. They
27 oversaw the construction of more than a dozen state-of-the-art science laboratories at

1 primary schools in Kentucky and Ireland; these labs were completed as a tribute to Dr.
2 Lyons' late brother, Father Kevin Lyons, a priest who had tirelessly worked to improve
3 the lives of children. Many of the schools with new labs went on to achieve coveted Blue
4 Ribbon Schools of Excellence status; and

5 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons also spent much of his professional life encouraging
6 aspiring scientists and entrepreneurs. The Alltech Young Scientist Program, the largest
7 global agriscience competition of its kind, has engaged more than 1000,000 university
8 students. More than 450 undergraduates have completed an internship program at the
9 Alltech Center for Animal Nutrigenomics and Applied Animal Nutrition in Kentucky,
10 and nearly 440 graduate students are being supported through Alltech's bioscience
11 centers; and

12 WHEREAS, Pearse and Deirdre Lyons were advocates of the arts and those
13 students who wished to pursue training in the arts. Alltech has sponsored the Alltech
14 Vocal Scholarship Competition, one of the largest vocal scholarship programs in the
15 world, which has helped to position the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre Program
16 as a Richard Tucker Foundation top-20 opera program. In all, more than \$500,000 in
17 scholarship have been awarded annually to promising young vocalists; and

18 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons was a passionate philanthropist whose giving had
19 touched the lives of so many people in this Commonwealth and across the world. He
20 proudly established Alltech's ACE Involvement Foundation, a charitable initiative to help
21 fund the company's philanthropic efforts. These efforts include Alltech Cafe Citadelle, a
22 Haitian coffee that offers "a cup of hope," the profits of which are reinvested into two
23 primary schools in northern Haiti; and

24 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons lived his life with passion, energy, and a boundless sense
25 of purpose; and

26 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body pause on this day to reflect on Pearse
27 Lyons' many accomplishments, and to duly thank him, his wife Deirdre, and all those at

1 Alltech who will oversee the enduring vision Dr. Lyons began in that garage almost four
2 decades ago; and

3 WHEREAS, on March 8, 2018, Pearse Lyons departed this earthly life, leaving
4 everyone whose lives he touched—in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in his beloved
5 Ireland, and across the world—in solemn mourning; and

6 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons is survived by his loving wife, Deirdre; daughter, Aoife;
7 son, Mark and his wife, Holly; and a host of other family members, friends, and loved
8 ones who will dearly miss his presence in their lives;

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

12 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively,
13 hereby express their most profound sympathy upon the passing of Dr. Pearse Lyons, and
14 posthumously thank him for the enduring legacy he has left behind in our
15 Commonwealth.

16 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
17 memory of Dr. Pearse Lyons.

18 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
19 Resolution to Senator Tom Buford for delivery to the family.