

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Donald Francis Harker Jr.

WHEREAS, Donald Francis Harker Jr. was born in Glendale, California, on May 9, 1947; and

WHEREAS, Don graduated from Clarksville High School and continued on to receive a B.S. in biology from Austin Peay State University and his M.S. in biology from the University of Notre Dame; and

WHEREAS, Don was a veteran who served in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Don had a lifelong passion for environmental stewardship and sustainable economic development, and held multiple leadership positions in state government and in the nonprofit sector; and

WHEREAS, Don was the founding Director of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and Director of the Kentucky Division of Water and the Division of Waste Management; and

WHEREAS, Don founded the Kentucky Local Governance Project in order to increase public involvement in matters of governance; and

WHEREAS, Don served as Executive Director of the Mountain Association for Community and Economic Development (MACED) in Berea, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Don most recently served as a consultant to several nonprofit organizations in the Portland, Bend, and Wallowa County areas, and was an assistant professor at Pacific Northwest College of Art focusing on social entrepreneurship and solutions to complex problems; and

WHEREAS, Don also had professional forays into ranch management with the famed wildlife artist Ray Harm in Tucson, Arizona, and as an owner-operator of a farm in Butler County, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Don was also a published author and writer of nonfiction and fiction; and

WHEREAS, Don was known for his passion and commitment to bringing out the best in others, bringing purpose to people's work by making institutions really stand for the things they were created to do, and for being a warrior grounded in love for the natural world and the Earth; and

WHEREAS, Don passed away on February 25, 2016, from a sudden and unexpected heart attack; and

WHEREAS, after a Navajo prayer about walking in beauty, and surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and fiancée, Sherrie Arsenault, he peacefully left this world; and

WHEREAS, Don is survived by his fiancée, Sherrie Arsenault; former wife and the mother of his two children, Kay Silvey Harker of Frankfort, Kentucky; children, Heather (Jackie) Harker and Hayden (Stephanie) Harker; and grandchildren, Nathan Harker Woodside and Isabella and Auden Harker; and

WHEREAS, Don is also survived by Sherrie's children, Carl (Steve) Charlton and Kim (Derek) Ralls, and grandchildren, Jackson and Cohen Charlton and Harlan and Paige Ralls; sisters, Mary (Jeff) Rhoads and Nancy (Jim) Wrenn; sister-in-law, Myranel (Mike) Hinton Harker Bryant; and multiple beloved nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Don was preceded in death by his mother, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Gates Gordon Harker; father, Donald Francis Harker Sr.; and brother, James "Jim" Gordon Harker;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound sense of sorrow upon the passing of Donald Francis Harker Jr., and extend heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and community in this time of loss.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving memory of Donald Francis Harker Jr.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Julian M. Carroll for delivery to the family.