

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Donald
2 Ray Ball.

3 WHEREAS, Donald Ray Ball was a son of this Commonwealth, having been born
4 near Henderson on July 27, 1936, to the late James and Marjorie Ball; and

5 WHEREAS, Don Ball was a 1954 graduate of Hebbardsville High School who
6 attended the University of Kentucky before obtaining his real estate license. He and his
7 wife, Mira Ball, incorporated Ball Homes in 1959, and the business would go on to
8 become recognized not only in Kentucky but across the country; and

9 WHEREAS, Don Ball was a passionate advocate for affordable housing, and Ball
10 Homes reflected this philosophy. His humanitarianism toward Kentucky's most
11 vulnerable citizens, and his enduring compassion and empathy for his fellow citizens, will
12 endure long after his passing; and

13 WHEREAS, at the age of 28, Don Ball began service in the Kentucky General
14 Assembly as the State Representative for Kentucky's 55th Legislative District. He was a
15 member of the legislature from 1964 until 1969, serving as Caucus Chairman and
16 Minority Leader, and his commitment to advocacy and community engagement would
17 continue long after his career as a lawmaker concluded; and

18 WHEREAS, Don Ball served as President of the Building Industry Association, and
19 had been a member of that body since 1962. He was also a member of the National
20 Association of Home Builders Committee on Affordable Housing Task Force, the Federal
21 Commission for Distressed Public Housing, and the Lexington Board of Realtor's
22 Housing Foundation. He helped organize REACH, which assists lower-income
23 individuals and families in the home financing and buying process, and was essential in
24 the creation of Lexington's Affordable Housing Alliance. For his extraordinary work in
25 affordable housing, Mr. Ball was recognized by *BUILDER Magazine* with its first ever
26 Hearthstone BUILDER Humanitarian Award, and in 2012 the Homebuilders Association
27 of Lexington inducted Don and Mira Ball into its Hall of Fame; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1990, Don Ball helped to organize the HOPE Center, Lexington's
2 homeless shelter and recovery program for men. In 1993 he and Mira incorporated
3 Barkham, LLC, a nonprofit construction firm. Through Barkham, Mr. Ball built a one-
4 parent apartment facility now known as Scholar House; the HOPE Center for Women;
5 Chrysalis House Apartments; and Shepherd's House, a halfway house for men who have
6 completed substance abuse counseling; and

7 WHEREAS, Don Ball served with then-First Lady Jane Beshear on the Governor's
8 Recovery Kentucky Task Force, an ongoing initiative designed to combat the
9 Commonwealth's drug problem. In this capacity he was instrumental in the construction
10 of 16 residential recovery centers for men and women located around Kentucky; and

11 WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Don and Mira Ball established Donamire Farm, a 640-
12 acre Thoroughbred farm in Lexington. An avid horseman, Mr. Ball was deeply concerned
13 with the livelihood of backside workers, and in this spirit he was active with the
14 Kentucky Racing Health and Welfare Fund, which uses funds from pari-mutuel wagering
15 to assist backside workers with health care costs. He also served three terms as president
16 of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, as past commissioner of the Kentucky Horse
17 Racing Authority, and was chair and a longtime board member of the Kentucky
18 Thoroughbred Development Fund; and

19 WHEREAS, throughout his extraordinary life, Don Ball kept his Henderson roots
20 close to his heart. In 2014, he was awarded an honorary associate's degree from
21 Henderson Community College for his contributions to education and to various
22 Henderson County activities, and for helping to better the lives of all citizens of the
23 Commonwealth, particularly those who are under-resourced; and

24 WHEREAS, Don Ball departed this earthly life on March 23, 2018, leaving his
25 family, friends, and an entire Commonwealth in solemn mourning; and

26 WHEREAS, Don Ball is survived by his wife, Mira Ball; children, Donald Ray Ball
27 Jr. and his wife, Linda, Michael Bryant Ball and his wife, Katherine, and Lisa Hays Ball;

1 grandchildren, Rachel Ball Albright and her husband, Justin, Megan Sharp, Hillary Ball
2 Henle and her husband, Luke, Maggie Sharp, D.R. Ball, Kelly Ball, and Will Sharp;
3 great-grandchildren, Savannah Carter and Hallie Albright; siblings, Jean Russell, Jim Ball
4 and his wife, Peggy, and Sue Walters and her husband, Walt; and a host of other family
5 members, friends, and loved ones who will dearly miss his presence in their lives;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

9 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively,
10 hereby express their most profound sympathy upon the passing of Donald Ray Ball, and
11 posthumously thank him for his generosity, his humanitarianism, and his many
12 contributions to the citizens of this Commonwealth.

13 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
14 memory of Donald Ray Ball.

15 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
16 Resolution to Senator Damon Thayer.