

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the life and memory of Cecil F. Dunn.

2 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn was born in Richmond, Kentucky, to Hockaday Farra
3 Dunn and Nancy Terrill Dunn on August 2, 1937; and

4 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn attended and subsequently graduated from Richmond
5 Model High School where he was a stand-out athlete in multiple sports, playing for the
6 Model-Madison Purples; and

7 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn attended Florida State University for three years before
8 transferring back to his hometown college, Eastern Kentucky University. He went on to
9 graduate from Eastern Kentucky University's ROTC program with a Bachelor of Arts;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn entered the United States Army and was stationed at Fort
12 Knox, where he fortuitously met the love of his life, Judy Gish, while she was working
13 on base. The two began dating in 1961 before marrying in 1965; and

14 WHEREAS, after serving as the youngest Captain in his Division, Cecil Dunn
15 studied at the University of Kentucky College of Law, graduating in 1965 with a
16 Bachelor of Laws. He would go on to attend the Lexington Theological Seminary,
17 receiving his Master of Arts; and

18 WHEREAS, upon graduation, Cecil Dunn embarked upon a nearly 60-year career
19 as an attorney and judge in Lexington; and

20 WHEREAS, during that career, Cecil Dunn focused on the development of low-
21 and moderate-income multifamily housing dwellings and multifamily Housing and Urban
22 Development loans; and

23 WHEREAS, while serving as the general counsel of the Kentucky Housing
24 Corporation, Cecil Dunn was the primary legal advisor to the corporation and its staff,
25 providing a broad spectrum of legal services; and

26 WHEREAS, in addition to his private practice, Cecil Dunn served as a Criminal
27 Trial Commissioner and Assistant County Attorney for Fayette County and was

1 appointed as the Special Prosecutor for the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire investigation
2 in 1978 and 1979; and

3 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn was a proud member of the Kentucky Bar Association. He
4 received the following awards in honor of his legal career: the Henry Duncan Award
5 from the Fayette County Bar Association, the Lexington Optimist Community Service
6 Award, the Kentucky Housing Corporation Excellence in Housing Award, and had an
7 AV Pre-Eminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell; and

8 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn was a proud resident of Lexington, living there for over 60
9 years. His and Judy's front door on Kingsway Drive was always open, allowing the house
10 to often be full of friends and family, with Cecil holding court in his den; and

11 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn was a passionate advocate for his community, church,
12 University of Kentucky (UK) basketball, and family. He served as the Executive Director
13 of the Hope Center for 24 years prior to retiring. The Hope Center provides services that
14 promote healing from substance abuse, mental health disorders, and homelessness. He
15 said of the Hope Center: "It was the best thing that I have ever been associated
16 with...Second chances are born and nurtured here." Both Cecil and his dear friend, the
17 late Don Ball, dedicated the second halves of their careers to the mission and vision of
18 the Hope Center, bettering thousands of lives in the process; and

19 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn was a lifelong Presbyterian and devout member of First
20 Presbyterian Church in Lexington. He served as a member of the Session multiple times
21 and on the Pastor Search Committee. The back right pew at First Presbyterian was often
22 "reserved" for his family and special friends, George Willmott and Grace Myers; and

23 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn and Judy followed UK basketball for many years as
24 supporters, and he was closely associated with the team during the Joe B. Hall era; and

25 WHEREAS, though he cherished being a father, Cecil Dunn's favorite role soon
26 became that of grandparent. He treasured time with all his grandchildren and loved being
27 their CeCe, never missing a ball game, play, cheerleading and dance competition, or

1 recital. In return, the grandchildren adored their CeCe; and

2 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn had a brilliant career that spanned decades and a sterling
3 reputation in his community for his tireless work – but there is no doubt that his greatest
4 legacy is his family and those closest friends who shared his life; and

5 WHEREAS, on March 23, 2024, after a brief illness, Cecil Dunn traversed these
6 earthly bounds. He was preceded in death by his parents, Hockaday and Nancy Dunn,
7 and granddaughter, Quinn Callahan Dunn; and

8 WHEREAS, Cecil Dunn is survived by his beloved wife, Judy; sons, Patrick
9 (Michelle), Michael (Amy), and Geoffrey (Kristy); and grandchildren, Harrison
10 (Keeghan) Dunn, Aidan (Darby) Dunn, Lauren Dunn, Caroline (Justin) Widmer, Euan
11 Dunn, Mary Walker Dunn, Mason Dunn, Tatum Dunn, and Hadley Dunn;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

15 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby extends its most profound sympathy upon the
16 passing of Cecil F. Dunn and expresses heartfelt condolences to his family and
17 community in this time of loss.

18 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Cecil F.
19 Dunn.

20 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
21 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas.