

A RESOLUTION adjourning the House of Representatives in honor and loving memory of Dr. Jess Lewis Gardner Jr.

WHEREAS, Jess Gardner was born in Hodgenville on May 27, 1922, the cherished son of Jess Lewis Gardner Sr. and Wilia Dee Lewis; and

WHEREAS, Jess Gardner's early life was a marvel to his sons and could be described as early 20th century Hardy Boys, full of adventure and creations. His bicycle took him far afield with Knob Creek and Horse Cave within his range. His family had a refrigerator and electricity back when you had to generate your own, and as a result in 1939 he was the first person from his part of Kentucky to be accepted as an engineering student at Purdue University; and

WHEREAS, when the world had other plans, Jess Gardner enlisted in the United States Army in December 1942 and served as a tank commander in the 7th Army, rising to Company Commander under General George S. Patton. During his service he was severely wounded and shipped to the United States for convalescence; and

WHEREAS, upon his recovery, Jess Gardner was assigned to General MacArthur's staff in Tokyo as an engineer. While there he contracted TB and was medically retired in 1947. For his service he received numerous commendations, including the Silver Star and a Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters for combat wounds received in France and Holland; and

WHEREAS, Jess Gardner resumed his academic career at the University of Kentucky in 1949. He would remain at UK for over 50 years as a student, educator, advisor, and leader. On receiving his BS in history from UK in 1953, he was awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion. A master's in education followed in 1955 and a doctorate in 1964. He taught at University High until its closing in 1962 and then at UK, ultimately retiring as professor emeritus in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Jess Gardner was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (Levere) and Omicron Delta Kappa. He served as a faculty advisor and held national positions for both

organizations, and also served as a member of the UK faculty senate and a UK Fellow; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the Lexington community, Jess Gardner served as president or board chairman of the Lexington Public Library, the Red Cross, Wheels, Planned Parenthood, and Spindletop Hall. Nationally he served on the National Traffic Safety Council for the Johnson Administration; and

WHEREAS, as varied as his professional accomplishments were, Jess Gardner's personal life was even larger. Friends and family were always close, no matter the distance. From invented holidays (Dog Fennel Days, etc.) to Sundays around the dinner table with an endless array of bright young UK students brought home from the Sunday school class he and his wife, Davis, taught at Calvary Baptist for over 20 years, to homestays with the Experiment in International Living, Jess liked people. He wanted to hear their stories and help them in any way possible. He took immense pride in their accomplishments. His dream of life on the river resulted in owning three houseboats and traveling the Kentucky River from Frankfort to Beattyville. Upon retirement, Jess and Davis traveled the world, visiting over 65 countries. Their many voyages circumnavigated the globe. Over the course of his life Jess reinvented himself many times, from an engineer to a warrior to an educator to a world traveler and finally a kind and accepting Parkinson's Disease patient. At no time did his easy humor, quick smile, and sparkling eyes leave him; and

WHEREAS, Jess Gardner departed this earthly life and entered into the kingdom of Heaven on February 14, 2016, leaving his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched in solemn mourning; and

WHEREAS, Jess Gardner was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Dot Wade. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Davis Lowrey; sons, Jess Lewis Gardner III (Mary) and John Lowrey Gardner (Carol); and grandchildren, Logan Jess Gardner, Austin Stone Gardner, and Victoria Zee Gardner;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby express their most profound condolences upon the passing of Dr. Jess Lewis Gardner Jr., and extend heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and community in this time of loss.

➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving memory of Dr. Jess Lewis Gardner Jr.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo for delivery to the family.