

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Dr. Rice Cowan Leach.

WHEREAS, Dr. Leach was born in Lexington on April 10, 1940, the cherished son of the late George Brown Leach and Frances Scott Leach; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leach was a proud graduate of Amherst College who earned his medical degree from the University of Kentucky. He went on to obtain a Master of Health Services Administration degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, and in 1966 began a career in public health that would lead him to become one of the most decorated health officials in the history of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leach served as chief of staff to the United States Surgeon General and, from 1992 until 2004, as Kentucky's Commissioner of Public Health. In that position he worked to implement several public health initiatives ordered by the Kentucky General Assembly, and chaired the Attorney General's Task Force on Controlled Substance Abuse. In 2004, Dr. Leach was named medical director of the Primary Care Center of the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, and served as a professor and preventive medicine residency program associate director at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health's Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leach was named Lexington's Commissioner of Health in March 2011. He helped the Lexington Health Department achieve national public accreditation, launched the city's first needle-exchange program, and in March 2016 he was the recipient of the Public Health Hero Award given for his lifetime of service to Lexington and the United States. The award was renamed the Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero Award in his honor, a testament to Dr. Leach's indelible legacy in public health and to how beloved he was in the Lexington community; and

WHEREAS, perhaps Dr. Leach's most lasting legacy will be that of his mentorship to those who looked to him for guidance. He listened to everyone and made all that he met feel special, and in his ongoing pursuit to make Lexington a healthier, better place to

live, he touched the lives of so many who will now carry his legacy of generosity, kindness, and courage into the future; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rice Cowan Leach, a natural-born storyteller and a beloved son of this Commonwealth, departed this earthly life on April 1, 2016, and this honorable body on this day acknowledges his many contributions to public health as it stands in solemn mourning upon the loss of this great Kentuckian; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leach was preceded in death by his daughter, Mary. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mireille; sons, George and John; grandchildren, Nicolas Cowan Whitcomb and Alyse Marie Whitcomb; brother, George Brown Leach Jr.; and a host of other family members who will dearly miss his presence in their lives;

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 sympathy upon the passing of Dr. Rice Cowan Leach, 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 Dr. Rice Cowan Leach.

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