

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Geoffrey S. Mearns for his service as Northern
2 Kentucky University President and wishing him every success in his new position.

3 WHEREAS, Geoffrey Mearns has served as President of Northern Kentucky
4 University since August 1, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, in his nearly five years in that position, Geoffrey Mearns has overseen
6 a positive change in the culture at NKU that is the culmination of an ongoing process
7 which has engaged students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders; and

8 WHEREAS, the improvements under Geoffrey Mearns have been widespread and
9 have touched every aspect of the university. Academically, the university has welcomed
10 the most diverse class in the school's history, and undergraduate retention rates have
11 increased substantially. Athletically, NKU has smoothly made the transition to Division I
12 athletics and has begun competition in the Horizon League; and

13 WHEREAS, as a result of Geoffrey Mearns' effective advocacy, the university
14 secured a \$97 million investment from the Commonwealth to design and build a modern
15 health information center in 2014. To enhance this investment, Mr. Mearns secured an \$8
16 million philanthropic investment from St. Elizabeth Healthcare to support the simulation
17 facilities in the health innovation center, which is scheduled to open in 2018; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2016, Geoffrey Mearns successfully lobbied for a substantial
19 increase in annual state operating support for NKU, and these funds will be essential as
20 the university proudly moves toward its 50th anniversary celebration in 2018; and

21 WHEREAS, prior to his arrival at NKU, Geoffrey Mearns served as provost and
22 senior vice president for academic affairs at Cleveland State University. A graduate of
23 Yale University who holds a law degree from the University of Virginia, he enjoyed a
24 successful legal career before his move to academia; and

25 WHEREAS, Geoffrey Mearns will leave NKU after the university's commencement
26 in May 2017, and this august body rightfully honors him on this day for his service to one
27 of this Commonwealth's finest institutions of higher learning. In so doing, the members of

1 this body duly thank Mr. Mearns for all he accomplished at NKU, and acknowledge that
2 he would not have achieved these goals without the constant support of his wife, Jennifer,
3 and of his children, Bridget, Christina, Clare, Molly, and Geoffrey Jr;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor Geoffrey
8 S. Mearns for all he accomplished as President of Northern Kentucky University, and
9 grant him best wishes as he moves on to a new and exciting chapter of his life.

10 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
11 honor of Geoffrey S. Mearns.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
13 copy of this Resolution to Representative Dennis Keene for delivery.