

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Judge
2 Richard J. FitzGerald.

3 WHEREAS, Judge Richard J. FitzGerald, a native of New York, New York, was a
4 proud graduate of Manhattan College and the University of Louisville Brandeis School of
5 Law; and

6 WHEREAS, after volunteering for the Christian Appalachian Project in McKee
7 County, Judge FitzGerald earned an abiding respect for this Commonwealth and the
8 surrounding region, translating that respect to an extraordinary career in juvenile justice;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Judge FitzGerald served for more than ten years as the Chief Judge of
11 Juvenile Court, retiring in 2000; and

12 WHEREAS, during his career, Judge FitzGerald was a staunch advocate for abused
13 and neglected children. For his efforts he was recognized as Judge of the Year by the
14 National CASA Association and was the recipient of many other commendations,
15 including the Chief Justice's Special Service Award for Outstanding Service to the Courts
16 of Kentucky. A visiting professor at the ChildLaw Center at Loyola University, his career
17 on the bench was exemplified by one of his favorite maxims: "there are no unwanted
18 children, only unfound parents"; and

19 WHEREAS, for his years of exemplary service to Juvenile Court and for all he
20 accomplished for the children of this Commonwealth, this honorable body stands in
21 reverence of Judge Richard J. FitzGerald, who departed this life on December 27, 2017,
22 and posthumously thanks him for all he accomplished on behalf of Kentucky's most
23 vulnerable citizens; and

24 WHEREAS, Judge FitzGerald was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and
25 Ruth FitzGerald, and brother, Edward FitzGerald, Jr. He is survived by his wife of 46
26 years, Dr. Marjorie Rumely FitzGerald; daughters, Nora Meldrum and her husband,
27 Brian, and Molly Perry and her husband, Timothy; granddaughters, Lucy Perry, Abigail

1 Meldrum, and Emmeline Meldrum; brother, Tom FitzGerald and his wife Patricia;
2 sisters, Maureen Morrell and her husband, Rob, and Jane FitzGerald; and a host of other
3 family members, friends, and loved ones who will dearly miss his presence in their lives;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby express their most profound
8 sympathy upon the passing of Judge Richard J. FitzGerald, and extend heartfelt
9 condolences to his family, friends, and community in this time of loss.

10 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
11 memory of Judge Richard J. FitzGerald.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
13 Resolution to Senator Morgan McGarvey for delivery to the family.