

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Willis
2 "Willie" Pratt.

3 WHEREAS, the son of a school teacher and a coal miner, Willis "Willie" Pratt was
4 raised in Hazard, Kentucky; and

5 WHEREAS, upon traveling to Louisville in search of employment while beginning
6 his higher education at the University of Louisville, Willie Pratt joined Brown-Forman at
7 the age of 20; and

8 WHEREAS, Willie Pratt proudly worked for Brown-Forman for more than four
9 decades, becoming one of the titans of the bourbon industry in this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Willie Pratt retired from Brown-Forman at the age of 65, but he
11 returned as Master Distiller at Michter's in 2007 and served as Master Distiller Emeritus
12 at the time of his passing; and

13 WHEREAS, Willie Pratt's tenure with Michter's would see the fruition of the state-
14 of-the-art Shively Distillery, and his work revitalizing Michter's was one of the shining
15 achievements of his esteemed career; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2017, Willie Pratt was inducted into the Whisky Magazine Hall of
17 Fame; and

18 WHEREAS, nicknamed "Dr. No" for his pursuit of perfection and his indelible
19 talent for his craft, Willie Pratt is rightfully honored on this day for his profound
20 contributions to the bourbon industry; and

21 WHEREAS, Willie Pratt was a proud graduate of the University of Louisville and a
22 member and trustee of Garrs Lane Methodist Church; and

23 WHEREAS, an avid fisherman and hunter, Willis Pratt enjoyed riding motorcycles
24 and spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

25 WHEREAS, Willis "Willie" Pratt, Master Distiller; great of the bourbon industry;
26 and cherished husband, father, grandfather, and brother, departed this earthly life and
27 entered into the kingdom of Heaven on December 27, 2020, leaving all those whose lives

1 he touched in solemn mourning; and

2 WHEREAS, Willie Pratt was preceded in death by his parents, Vertie and Kenneth
3 Pratt; grandson, Kyle; and brother-in-law, Don Warner. He is survived by his beloved
4 wife, Patricia Pratt; children, Paula Pratt, David Pratt (Carol), and Jason Pratt; sisters,
5 Tonya Warner and Sharon Prince (Bob); grandchildren, Katie Blakeman (Brad), Shelby,
6 and Nolan; and great-grandchildren, Avery and Owen;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
9 *Kentucky:*

10 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby expresses its most profound sympathy upon the
11 passing of Willis "Willie" Pratt, and posthumously thanks him for his many contributions
12 to the bourbon industry in this Commonwealth.

13 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
14 memory of Willis "Willie" Pratt.

15 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
16 Resolution to the Pratt Family, 4109 North Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40216.