

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the life and memory of world-renowned Thoroughbred
2 horse owner, breeder, and pillar of the horse racing industry, Frank L. Jones, Jr.

3 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. was born in 1937 in Louisville, Kentucky, to
4 parents Frank L. Jones, Sr. and Ann Epperson Jones; and

5 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. attended Western Kentucky University before
6 faithfully serving his country in the United States Air Force; and

7 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. was introduced to the world of horse racing when a
8 friend convinced him to wager a \$2 on a horse. His first bet earned him a return of \$96
9 and was the catalyst to him becoming a legend in the horse racing industry; and

10 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. purchased his first horse in 1968 for \$1,500 and
11 exclusively used Jerry Romans, Sr. and his son, Dale, as trainers; and

12 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. became a prominent breeder and owner of
13 Thoroughbred horses who helped shape the horse industry in Kentucky over his decades
14 of leadership. He was the leading owner at the Churchill Downs spring meets in 1989,
15 1990, 1992, and 1995; and

16 WHEREAS, the star of his stable was Tapitsfly (Tapit), who won the inaugural
17 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf in 2009, as well as the winner of Belmont's Grade 1
18 Just a Game Stakes and Keeneland's First Lady Stakes Jones sold the filly in 2012 at the
19 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November sale for \$1.85 million to Katsumi Yoshida; and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to his other roles, Frank L. Jones, Jr. spent more than 30
21 years serving as the owner's vice president of the Kentucky Horsemen's Benevolent and
22 Protective Association (HBPA) where he was instrumental in negotiating contracts for
23 owners and trainers with racetracks; and

24 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. also chaired the HBPA's finance committee and
25 acted as a legislative liaison; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1997, Frank L. Jones, Jr. was appointed to serve as vice chairman of
27 the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC), where he was first appointed by

1 Governor Paul Patton, reappointed by Governor Steve Beshear in 2008, and then
2 reappointed again in 2020 by Governor Andy Beshear; and

3 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. also served as a long-time board member and
4 secretary of the Kentucky Racing Health and Welfare Fund, which provides health
5 resources and financial assistance to the Commonwealth's backstretch workers; and

6 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. served as president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred
7 Owners in 1998-1999, and was a member of the American Horse Council, Thoroughbred
8 Owners and Breeders Association, and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association. In
9 October of 2022, he was selected as a member of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety
10 Authority's Horseman Advisory Group; and

11 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. was nominated as a candidate for the Ernst and
12 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1989 and 1990. In 2019, he was also honored
13 with the Warner Jones Award, which recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions
14 to Kentucky racing; and

15 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. was also an accomplished businessman, founding
16 Recreonics, Inc. in Louisville and growing it into a leader in the commercial aquatic
17 industry; and

18 WHEREAS, in his personal life, Frank L. Jones, Jr. was an avid enjoyer of sports,
19 especially enjoying volleyball, basketball, and tennis; and

20 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. passed away Thursday, August 10th at his home in
21 Louisville. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Frank L. Jones, Sr. and Ann
22 Epperson Jones; sister, Margie Y. Garland; and first wife, Gloria Goodman Jones. He is
23 survived by wife, Nancy Delony-Jones; brother, Morris Jones; Dale Romans, whom he
24 considered to be his son; nephews, Steve (Becky) Baldwin Michael (Jamie) Garland Tim
25 (Stephanie) Garland, Jonathan Jones; niece, Renee Garland; and all the employees of
26 Recreonics, whom he considered his extended family; and

27 WHEREAS, Frank L. Jones, Jr. is remembered by his friends and family as not just

1 a giant in the Thoroughbred racing industry but as a thoughtful and knowledgeable man
2 who was always willing to listen and provide guidance to anyone who needed it;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

6 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby extends its most profound sympathy upon the
7 passing of horse racing industry icon Frank L. Jones, Jr. and expresses heartfelt
8 condolences to his family in this time of loss.

9 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Frank L.
10 Jones, Jr.

11 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
12 Resolution to Dale Romans.