

1 A RESOLUTION honoring University of Kentucky men's basketball players for
2 honors and awards received during the 2023-2024 season.

3 WHEREAS, this Commonwealth is blessed in that its flagship university, the
4 University of Kentucky, has an outstanding basketball tradition. The Wildcats have won
5 2,400 games, along with 62 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
6 Tournament appearances, 16 NCAA Final Fours, and eight national championships, all of
7 which rank within the top three of their respective categories; and

8 WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 Kentucky Wildcats team was renowned for their
9 offensive firepower, as they ranked as a top-five offense all season according to advanced
10 metrics, averaging an NCAA second-best 89 points per game and shooting an NCAA-
11 best 41 percent from three-point range; and

12 WHEREAS, fifth-year senior Antonio Reeves averaged 20.2 points per game, shot
13 86 percent from the free throw line, and averaged 45 percent from three-point range; and

14 WHEREAS, for his stellar play, Antonio Reeves was named to the All-SEC First
15 Team; the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division I District 20 First Team;
16 listed as a top five finalist for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame's Jerry West Award,
17 awarded to the nation's most outstanding collegiate shooting guard; and listed on the final
18 men's ballot for the John R. Wooden Award Most Outstanding Player, an honor awarded
19 to the collegiate basketball player who most excels on the court, within the community,
20 and inside the classroom; and

21 WHEREAS, star freshman Rob Dillingham averaged 15.2 points per game, nearly 4
22 assists, and shot 44 percent from three-point range; and

23 WHEREAS, for his stellar play, Rob Dillingham was named the SEC's Sixth Man
24 of the Year, to the All-SEC Second Team, and to the SEC All-Freshman Team; and

25 WHEREAS, highly anticipated freshman, former North Laurel High School
26 standout and 2023 Kentucky Mr. Basketball, Reed Sheppard, averaged 12.7 points per
27 game, 4.5 assists, 2.6 steals, and shot a staggering 52.6 percent from three-point range;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, for his stellar play, Reed Sheppard was named SEC Freshman of the
3 Year, to the All-SEC 2nd Team, and to the SEC All-Freshman Team; and was named the
4 U.S. Basketball Writers Association's Wayman Tisdale National Freshman Player of the
5 Year, only the third Wildcat to win the award, after John Wall and Anthony Davis; and

6 WHEREAS, long-awaited freshman, and son of former Coach John Calipari player
7 Dejuan Wagner, D.J. Wagner, averaged 9.9 points and 3.3 assists a game and made 76.6
8 percent of his free throws as one of the SEC's most exciting point guards; and

9 WHEREAS, for his stellar play, D.J. Wagner was named to the SEC All-Freshman
10 Team; and

11 WHEREAS, for his legendary collegiate coaching career, Hall of Fame Coach John
12 Calipari will be awarded the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Legends of Coaching
13 Award on April 12, 2024, alongside the Men's and Women's Wooden Award ceremonies;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, even in an era of such intense political division and polarization,
16 Kentucky Wildcats basketball remains as a much-needed source of aisle-crossing unity in
17 supporting a common passion, cheering on the 'Cats to continue their winning tradition;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in the spirit of continuing to introduce Wildcat fandom to new
20 generations and celebrating Kentucky players that showcase excellence on a national
21 stage, it is appropriate that the achievements of these young men be recognized in a
22 public manner;

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

24 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
25 ***Kentucky:***

26 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate join Senator Cassie Chambers Armstrong
27 in honoring the University of Kentucky men's basketball team for its memorable 2023-

1 2024 regular season, commending the players for their outstanding efforts and
2 accomplishments, and wishing all players and staff the best of luck in upcoming seasons
3 and any future endeavors.

4 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
5 Senator Cassie Chambers Armstrong for presentation to the team.