

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of former
2 University of Louisville Men's Basketball Coach Denny Crum.

3 WHEREAS, Denny Crum, a loving husband and father who won two NCAA
4 Championships while serving as the University of Louisville's men's basketball coach
5 for 30 years, passed away at his home on May 9, 2023, at the age of 86; and

6 WHEREAS, a native of San Fernando, California, Denny Crum played college
7 basketball at UCLA under legendary coach John Wooden, and after graduating in 1959,
8 immediately began his coaching career with UCLA's freshman basketball team; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1961, Denny Crum returned to Pierce College, where he had
10 attended, as an assistant coach and later served as their head coach from 1964 through
11 1968; he was then rehired by UCLA and became John Wooden's top assistant coach and
12 chief recruiter, helping lead the Bruins to national titles in each of his three seasons while
13 compiling an 86–4 record and recruiting players such as Bill Walton, one of the greatest
14 college basketball players ever; and

15 WHEREAS, Denny Crum was hired as head coach at the University of Louisville
16 in 1971, taking over a team that had not been to the Final Four in more than a decade and
17 had never won a national championship, and led the Cardinals to the 1972 Final Four in
18 his first season. His team returned to the Final Four in 1975, losing in the semifinals to
19 his mentor Wooden and UCLA by one point in overtime in what is generally considered
20 one of the greatest NCAA tournament games of all time; and

21 WHEREAS, after Wooden's Bruins defeated the University of Kentucky to win the
22 1975 NCAA championship and Wooden announced his retirement, it was almost a
23 foregone conclusion that Denny Crum would return home to his alma mater and take over
24 the storied Bruins program, but Crum had other ideas; and

25 WHEREAS, Denny Crum, nicknamed "Cool Hand Luke" by former commentator
26 Al McGuire, stayed in Louisville and built upon his early success, consistently winning a
27 high percentage of his games, and finally winning the school's first NCAA championship

1 against UCLA in 1980, kicking off one of the most impressive stretches in the history of
2 modern college basketball; and

3 WHEREAS, Denny Crum's Cardinals returned to the Final Four in both 1982 and
4 1983, and in 1986 he won his second NCAA championship, emerging victorious over
5 Duke University; and

6 WHEREAS, over his 30-year career from 1971 to 2001, Denny Crum amassed a
7 record of 675 wins against 295 losses, and guided the Cardinals to 23 NCAA tournament
8 appearances, 10th-most by a coach of all time; six Final Four appearances, sixth-most by
9 a coach of all time; and two national championships, making him one of just 14 coaches
10 who have won multiple crowns; and

11 WHEREAS, Denny Crum, who was known for his trademark rolled-up program he
12 held in one hand during games, often gesturing with it to emphasize a point, is considered
13 one of the best college basketball coaches in history. He was inducted into the Naismith
14 Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1994, as well as being named a member of the
15 inaugural class of the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006; and

16 WHEREAS, after retirement from coaching, Denny Crum stayed in Louisville and
17 remained a vital part of the community, serving as a special assistant to the university
18 president for several years and co-hosting "The Joe B. and Denny Show," a popular talk
19 radio program with his former rival and good friend, former University of Kentucky
20 basketball coach Joe B. Hall; and

21 WHEREAS, since 2001, the Denny Crum Scholarship Foundation and the Denny
22 Crum Scholarship Fund at U of L have awarded over a million dollars benefiting over
23 425 students; serving as just one example of how this California native made Louisville
24 his home and lent countless hours of his time for charitable causes throughout the
25 community for over 50 years; and

26 WHEREAS, Denny Crum's legacy permeates the Louisville campus; the KFC
27 Yum! Center court has been named in his honor, and a new residence hall on the U of L

1 campus, Denny Crum Hall, opened in the fall 2022 semester, both student athletes and
2 non-student athletes; and

3 WHEREAS, Denny Crum is survived by his wife Susan Sweeney Crum, daughter
4 Cynthia Abney; sons Steve (Libby) and Scott (Megan); sisters Juanita Whitson and
5 Sharann (Doug) Watson; brother Terry (Nancy) Turner; and grandchildren Austin Abney,
6 Candra Abney and Lena Crum; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. He
7 was preceded in death by his father and stepmother Alwin "AD" and Jean Crum; mother
8 and stepfather June and Mike Turner; and grandson Daniel Crum;

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

10 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
11 *Kentucky:*

12 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively, do
13 hereby express their deepest sympathy upon the passing of former University of
14 Louisville Basketball Coach Denny Crum, posthumously recognize his coaching
15 greatness and unparalleled success, and applaud his long history of charitable and
16 philanthropic work across the Commonwealth.

17 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
18 memory of Coach Denny Crum.

19 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
20 Resolution to Senator David Yates for delivery to the Crum family.