

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Jim
2 Hatfield.

3 WHEREAS, Jim Hatfield, also known as "Coach" was born in Maryville,
4 Tennessee, and played college basketball at East Tennessee State University, graduating
5 in 1966; and

6 WHEREAS, after starting his coaching career at Birmingham Southern University,
7 Jim Hatfield became an assistant basketball coach for the University of Kentucky (UK)
8 under legendary coach Joe B. Hall from 1972 to 1974; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1975, Jim Hatfield was hired to rebuild the scandal plagued
10 program at the Southwestern Louisiana, which had received a "death penalty" from the
11 National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) for recruiting and academic
12 violations, effectively suspending the program for two seasons; and

13 WHEREAS, in three seasons at Southwestern Louisiana, Jim Hatfield led a
14 remarkable rebuild, winning 21 games in 1977 and leading the Ragin' Cajuns to a
15 Southland Conference title; and

16 WHEREAS, Jim Hatfield became the head basketball coach at Mississippi State
17 University in 1978. In his first year at the school, the Bulldogs won 19 games and
18 finished third in the Southeastern Conference; and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Hatfield returned to Lexington as an assistant coach in 1983 and
20 helped lead the Wildcats to the NCAA Final Four in 1984; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Hatfield became the head basketball coach and athletic director at
22 the University of the Virgin Islands, building the program and enriching the community;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, after retiring from coaching, Jim Hatfield returned to Lexington with
25 his wife Faye, and continued to support UK athletics; and

26 WHEREAS, Jim Hatfield passed away on February 26, 2025, at Central Baptist
27 Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, at the age of 81; and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, Jim Hatfield is survived by his sister, Doris
2 Sullivan; three children, Angie Nemecek, Jim Hatfield, and Lisa Hatfield; and eight
3 grandchildren, Michael, Dylan, Grace, William, Jax, Preston, Andrew, and Anna; and

4 WHEREAS, Jim Hatfield's legacy lives on in the dozens of young men he coached
5 and molded through the years, the lives he touched, and the indelible impact he made;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

9 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby extend their most profound
10 sympathy upon the passing of Jim Hatfield, and posthumously honor his achievements.

11 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
12 memory of Jim Hatfield.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
14 Resolution to Senator Greg Elkins for delivery to the family.