

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Al Cross upon his retirement from the University of  
2 Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, Al Cross is a native son of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, born in  
4 Albany in Clinton County; and

5 WHEREAS, Al Cross is an award-winning reporter who was employed by *The*  
6 *Courier-Journal* for 26 years, including more than 15 years as a political writer from  
7 1989 to 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1989, Al Cross shared a Pulitzer Prize with *The Courier-Journal*  
9 staff for its coverage of the nation's deadliest bus crash; in 2001-2002 he was national  
10 president of the Society of Professional Journalists; and in 2010, he was inducted into the  
11 Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame; and

12 WHEREAS, Al Cross' coverage of the Capitol halls in Frankfort has proven  
13 insightful and educational to all Kentuckians, connecting them with their civil servants  
14 and elected officials and giving them a better understanding of the how our republic  
15 functions; and

16 WHEREAS, Al Cross has played an important role in the media's self-monitoring  
17 and professional development, serving as national president of the Society of Professional  
18 Journalists (SPJ) and assuming leadership roles in local chapters of SPJ as well as  
19 regional groups devoted to ethics, education, and representative government with a strong  
20 press; and

21 WHEREAS, Al Cross has advocated for rural and community journalism at the  
22 University Kentucky for nearly 20 years; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2004, Al Cross strengthened his commitment to quality journalism  
24 throughout this Commonwealth and beyond by co-founding the Institute for Rural  
25 Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky alongside legendary  
26 Kentucky journalist, Al Smith; and

27 WHEREAS, at the Institute, Al Cross served as director, an endeavor that has

1 helped renew the energy and spirit of community newspapers. The Institute is now a  
2 national program and its mission is to "help rural journalists define the public agenda in  
3 their communities"; and

4 WHEREAS, the Institute has had success in its creation of Kentucky Health News  
5 (KHN), an independent news service that has improved coverage of health care and  
6 health in the state, including annual County Health Rankings. Al Cross is both a publisher  
7 and a contributor to KHN; and

8 WHEREAS, Al Cross continues to write a weekly column on Kentucky issues  
9 which is anchored at the *Northern Kentucky Tribune*; and

10 WHEREAS, while Al Cross may be retiring, he will never abandon journalism. He  
11 once told a colleague, "there is no such thing as a former journalist";

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
14 ***Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively, salute  
16 Al Cross on his retirement from the University of Kentucky, as well as his lifelong efforts  
17 to provide even-handed coverage to the issues facing this Commonwealth and its citizens,  
18 and his enduring influence on journalism in Kentucky and across the nation.

19 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Kentucky  
20 Hall of Fame journalist, Al Cross.

21 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
22 Resolution to Al Cross, in care of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community  
23 Issues, 343 Martin Luther King Blvd, Blazer Dining Hall, Lexington, KY 40506-0012.