

A RESOLUTION honoring Martha Layne Collins during Women's History Month.

WHEREAS, Martha Layne Collins was born in Bagdad, Kentucky, on December 7, 1936. A graduate of Shelbyville High School and the University of Kentucky, she entered public service in 1971 by being named to the Democratic National Committee by Governor Wendell Ford; and

WHEREAS, Martha Layne Collins would go on to become Lieutenant Governor in 1979, and it was in that capacity that she traveled across this great Commonwealth and became known for her hard work and her uncommon dedication to Kentucky's families; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Martha Layne Collins was elected as Governor of Kentucky, becoming the first woman to serve as Governor of this Commonwealth and only the third woman who was not a wife or widow of a previous governor to serve in any state in the union. In this role she became a passionate and tireless advocate for education. She pushed for mandatory kindergarten, testing and internship for teachers, and a widespread expansion of special education programs. In 1985, she urged the General Assembly to pass more stringent education legislation, including a program meant to make funding for poorer school districts more equal to those in affluent districts, and placing teachers' aides in every kindergarten classroom in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Martha Layne Collins was also responsible for one of the most significant economic deals in modern Kentucky history by convincing Japanese investors to open the Toyota manufacturing plant in Georgetown; and

WHEREAS, Martha Layne Collin's term expired in December 1987, and after her service she taught at the University of Louisville and at the Harvard Institute of Politics' John F. Kennedy School of Government, where she was a fellow. She was later named to the board of regents at Midway College, and in 1990 became president of Saint Catharine College in Springfield. In 2001, Governor Paul Patton named her co-chair of the Kentucky Task Force on the Economic Status of Women; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this honorable body acknowledge the many accomplishments of former Governor Martha Layne Collins during Women's History Month. In rightful celebration and praise of all she has done for so many in this Commonwealth, this chamber stands united on this day to rightfully honor Martha Layne Collins, the 56th Governor of this great Commonwealth, and grants her best wishes as she continues her extraordinary life of service and leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor Martha Layne Collins.

➔Section 2. The members of the House of Representatives acknowledge Women's History Month and pause to reflect on the many accomplishments Martha Layne Collins has made as a notable woman in Kentucky's history.

➔Section 3. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in honor of and with eternal gratitude to Martha Layne Collins.

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Mary Lou Marzian for delivery.