

A RESOLUTION honoring Commissioner Dr. Rice Cowan Leach upon receiving the 2016 Public Health Hero Award.

WHEREAS, Dr. Rice Leach was born in Lexington, Kentucky. A proud graduate of the Sayre School, Harvard University, and the University of Kentucky Medical School, Dr. Leach is a longtime public health advocate, administrator, and physician. He has been an officer of the United States Public Health Service, Kentucky's Commissioner of Public Health, and the chief of staff to the United States Surgeon General; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years Dr. Leach, who is currently Lexington's Commissioner of Health, has been instrumental to the health and well-being of the citizens of this great Commonwealth. His work in Lexington has been profound, as he has overseen such initiatives as the needle exchange program, and his mission to "help Lexington be well" has become a mantra for all those who were lucky to have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2016, Dr. Leach was the recipient of the Public Health Hero Award from the Lexington-Fayette County Board of Health. The board plans to rename the award in Dr. Leach's honor, a gesture that epitomizes how beloved he is in his community and how instrumental his guidance has been to the field of medicine and public health; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Hero Award is given each year to a person in Lexington who has worked to improve the community's health. The award is designed to recognize a person who has shown exemplary leadership and diligence in promoting public health, has made remarkable contributions and support in fostering public health programs, and whose work or actions have impacted the community's health in a positive way; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leach, being the embodiment of a hero in his field, was given this award for his years of service to Lexington and for his unwavering and passionate advocacy for the common good; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leach is hereby honored by the members of this body on this day

upon receiving the Public Health Hero Award, and in so doing the Senate stands in recognition for all he has done for public health in this Commonwealth, for his 50 years of service in the name of good health, and for his exemplary guidance and leadership as the Commissioner of Health in Lexington;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

→Section 1. The Senate does hereby honor Dr. Rice Cowan Leach upon receiving the Public Health Hero Award from the Lexington-Fayette County Board of Health, and each member of this august body offers a solemn prayer as Dr. Leach continues his courageous fight against cancer.

→Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Dr. Rice Cowan Leach.

→Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Alice Forgy Kerr for delivery.