

1           A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of James  
2 Thomas Matney.

3           WHEREAS, James Thomas Matney was born in Paintsville, Kentucky, on August  
4 17, 1959, the son of the late Kermit and Pauline Matney; and

5           WHEREAS, Jim Matney graduated from Belfry High School in 1977, where he  
6 excelled in football, wrestling, and baseball; and

7           WHEREAS, Jim Matney then continued his wrestling career at Liberty University,  
8 where he graduated in 1982 with a degree in history; and

9           WHEREAS, after graduation, Jim Matney returned to Kentucky and served as an  
10 assistant football coach at his alma mater for one year; and

11           WHEREAS, in 1983, Jim Matney was hired to be the head football and wrestling  
12 coach at Sheldon Clark High School in Martin County, Kentucky, where his teams in  
13 both sports had great success, winning two team wrestling state championships, in 1994  
14 and 1995, as well as boasting 17 individual state champions; while his football team also  
15 won a regional tournament and reached the state semifinals; and

16           WHEREAS, in 2004, Jim Matney began coaching both sports at Johnson Central  
17 High School, where the success continued, with Matney leading the Eagles to 5 straight  
18 state championship game appearances in football, winning state championships in 2016  
19 and 2019, as well as winning two state wrestling dual meet championships in 2019 and  
20 2021, and coaching ten individual state champions; and

21           WHEREAS, Jim Matney slipped these earthly bonds on September 28, 2021,  
22 leaving behind a community devastated by the loss of their coach, teacher, and friend; and

23           WHEREAS, at his funeral, which one speaker christened a "hall of fame  
24 ceremony," Jim Matney was lauded as an advocate for eastern Kentucky, with Zach  
25 Collins eulogizing him by saying, "Matney had seen with his own eyes the struggle of the  
26 people in the mountains, and with those experiences came wisdom, and he took that  
27 wisdom and he imparted it upon his players."; and Chad Blair adding, "He was so much

1 more than a coach, so much more a father figure, an encourager, a defender and uplifter, a  
2 preacher. He said, 'I felt my ministry was to the kids of the mountains; that's where God  
3 could use me'."; and

4 WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Jim Matney was preceded in death by two  
5 sisters, Rita Cheryl and Joyce Ann; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim Matney is survived by his wife, Deborah; two sons, Dalton and  
7 Carson; four brothers, Clyde Payne, Gary, Bill, and Mike Matney; his mother and father-  
8 in-law, John and Sue Jude; three sisters-in-law, Tammy Goble, Janette Jude, and Cindy  
9 Mills; and ten nephews and eight nieces; as well as countless friends, students, and  
10 players, past and present, by which he will be sorely missed and fondly remembered; and

11 WHEREAS, this body pays special tribute to those citizens who go above and  
12 beyond in service to their communities, and in this spirit Jim Matney is rightfully honored  
13 on this day as a Kentuckian of the first order;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

17 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively, do  
18 hereby express their deepest sympathy upon the passing of James Thomas Matney, and  
19 posthumously honor him for his dedication to Johnson County High School and the  
20 hundreds of students that he mentored throughout his life.

21 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving  
22 memory of James Thomas Matney.

23 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
24 Resolution to Senator Phillip Wheeler for delivery to the Matney family.