

UNIVERSITY *of* KENTUCKY

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE LIFE OF

**William D. Coleman**

for his service and contributions to Liberia, his community and his enduring legacy.

**WHEREAS**, William D. Coleman was born into slavery in Fayette County, Kentucky in 1842, and emigrated to Liberia with his family at the age of 11, where they settled in Clay-Ashland near Monrovia; and

**WHEREAS**, established in 1846, Clay-Ashland was part of a colony called Kentucky In Africa, because it was settled by African-American immigrants primarily from the U.S. state of Kentucky under the auspices of the American Colonization Society; and

**WHEREAS**, Coleman trained as a carpenter, farmer, and a successful trader. His resolve led him to return to education later in life; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1877, Coleman was elected to the House of Representatives to represent Montserrado County, Liberia, later becoming the Speaker of the House. He was subsequently elected as a Senator for the same county in 1879; and

**WHEREAS**, Coleman was elected Vice President of Liberia alongside President Joseph James Cheeseman in 1892 on the True Whig Party ticket, and upon Cheeseman's death in 1896, Coleman ascended to the presidency, serving out Cheeseman's term and later elected to two terms of his own; and

**WHEREAS**, during his presidency, Coleman prioritized education, national financial stability, trade, and interior policy. While President, he led the reopening of Liberia College in Monrovia; and

**WHEREAS**, following in his forebear's footsteps, James R. Coleman, President and CEO of Coleman Crest Farm, LLC, is committed to educational opportunities, entrepreneurship, and uplifting others through food and agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, James Coleman's vision for his ancestral home of Coleman Crest Farm in Uttingertown, Kentucky, is to preserve the farm's rich history and produce soulful, quality food and vibrant opportunity through agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, he has pledged his partnership to support education and leadership programs such as Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences, "MANRRS," and in honor of his late wife Cathy, James Coleman is donating \$3 million to fund scholarships at the University of Kentucky (UK) and Howard University, with \$1.5 million going to UK to fund the Cathy and James Coleman Scholarship Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, James Coleman has a passion for education, service and empowering the lives and opportunities of others. In doing so, he has supported learning opportunities at Coleman Crest for youth of all ages from regional K-12 schools, the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment does hereby express our individual and collective gratitude to former President William D. Coleman for his extraordinary contributions and outstanding service, as exemplified in the character and actions of his descendants, such as James R. Coleman.

Nancy Cox  
Vice President for Land-grant  
Engagement and Dean