

SENATE RESOLUTION 44

(By Senators Oliverio, Smith (Mr. President), Azinger,
Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock,
Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton,
Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris,
Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart,
Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel and
Woodrum)

[Introduced April 1, 2025]

1 Memorializing the life of Jerry West, basketball legend and son of West Virginia.

2 Whereas, Jerome Alan West was born May 28, 1938, in Chelyan, West Virginia; and

3 Whereas, Jerry West attended East Bank High School in East Bank, West Virginia, from
4 1952 to 1956; and

5 Whereas, After being courted by more than 60 universities, Jerry West chose to stay in his
6 home state and attend West Virginia University. During his career at WVU, West totaled 2,309
7 points and 1,240 rebounds. Included among his collegiate accolades were being named an All-
8 American and Southern Conference MVP; and

9 Whereas, In 1960, Jerry West and Oscar Robertson co-captained the U.S. men's
10 basketball team that won the gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics; and

11 Whereas, Known as "Mr. Clutch", "The Logo", and "Zeke from Cabin Creek", Jerry West
12 was one of the greatest basketball players of all time, playing his entire professional career for the
13 Los Angeles Lakers from 1960 to 1974, earning 14 NBA All-Star selections and 12 All-NBA

1 selections, and leading the Lakers to an NBA Championship in 1972; and

2 Whereas, Jerry West's contributions as a player on the court were matched by his success
3 off the court as a coach and executive, where he continued to shape the future of basketball,
4 including playing a key role in the construction of some of the most iconic teams in NBA history;
5 and

6 Whereas, Jerry West's work as a general manager and executive for the Los Angeles
7 Lakers and the Golden State Warriors led to numerous titles, cementing his reputation as a brilliant
8 strategist and one of the greatest minds in basketball history; and

9 Whereas, Beyond his athletic prowess and executive genius, Jerry West was an
10 embodiment of grace, humility, and sportsmanship, earning the respect and admiration of peers,
11 coaches, players, and fans alike; and

12 Whereas, Jerry West was a role model, mentor, and philanthropist, whose love for the
13 game was matched only by his deep commitment to giving back to others and supporting various
14 charitable causes, especially those focused on youth and education, including the Jerry West
15 Scholarship, which was first awarded in 1971, and has enabled generations of Mountain State
16 natives to graduate from WVU; and

17 Whereas, Sadly, Jerry West passed away June 12, 2024, leaving behind an extraordinary
18 legacy that has deeply impacted the sport, his home state of West Virginia, and countless
19 individuals worldwide; therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate:*

21 That the Senate hereby memorializes the life of Jerry West, basketball legend and son of
22 West Virginia; and, be it

23 *Further Resolved,* That the Senate extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Jerry West
24 on his passing; and, be it

25 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
26 the family of Jerry West.