

# FCR 2

Office of the President  
February 20, 2026

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GIFT COMMITMENT FROM LINDA G. BALL TO  
BENEFIT THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, MARKEY CANCER CENTER

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a charitable gift commitment totaling \$5,000,000 from Linda G. Ball to provide faculty and research support for the College of Medicine, Markey Cancer Center. The charitable contribution shall support a gastrointestinal cancer research program in the Center, the “D. Ray Ball, Jr. Program of Excellence in Pancreatic Cancer,” which includes an endowed chair fund, the “D. Ray Ball, Jr. Chair in Gastrointestinal Cancer;” two endowed professorship funds, the “D. Ray Ball, Jr. Professorship in Pancreatic Cancer” and the “D. Ray Ball, Jr. Professorship in Gastroenterology;” and an endowed research fund, the “D. Ray Ball, Jr. Research Fund for Pancreatic Cancer.” In recognition of Mrs. Ball’s support, the University shall name the Cancer Acute Treatment Clinic in the UK Cancer and Advanced Ambulatory Building the “Ray and Linda Ball Cancer Acute Treatment Clinic.”

Background: The Ball family, known throughout Kentucky for their leadership in business and the community, have a long history of philanthropic support for the University. The eldest of Don and Mira Ball’s three children, Donald Ray Ball, Jr. (Ray), carried on the family’s corporate legacy as President of Ball Homes (among other ventures), and dedicated himself to his community through board service and a commitment to care for his employees, friends and neighbors.

Sadly, Ray died after a courageous two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. His, family – wife Linda and children Rachel, DR, and Kelly – want to honor his legacy. Linda’s gift to the Markey Cancer Center also honors Ray’s physicians and practitioners. The family is extremely grateful to Ray’s care team led by Dr. Joe Kim, Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, and wants their gift to support Pancreatic Cancer care and research at the Markey Cancer Center with the hope of curing this disease, so no family has to suffer a loss like theirs. The family knows the difficulties of taking a sick loved one to the Emergency Room (“ER”) during a time of crisis and appreciates that there will be a dedicated Oncology ER in the new building. In honor of their father’s memory the Cancer Acute Treatment Clinic in the new Markey Cancer Center and Advanced Ambulatory building will be named the “Ray and Linda Ball Cancer Acute Treatment Clinic.”

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_