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Office of the President
October 21, 2016

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Donald R. Ball and Mira S. Ball as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Background: Pursuant to the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees, the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees has recommended to the elected Faculty Senators that the specified honorary degrees be awarded to Donald R. Ball and Mira S. Ball. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

A biographical sketch of the recipients is attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Donald R. and Mira S. Ball Biographies

As individuals, Donald R. Ball and Mira S. Ball are overwhelmingly deserving of receiving honorary degrees from the University of Kentucky. Together, their story is even more compelling and hence this action item is brought before the UK Board of Trustees for approval.

The University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees recommends that Don and Mira Ball each be awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

This honorary degree recognizes extraordinary contributions to philanthropy, human development, education, or societal well-being. Don and Mira Ball are the embodiment of these principles and more.

The Balls co-founded Ball Homes, LLC in 1959, developing their business into one of the top 100 builders of single-family homes in the nation. Subsequently, Mr. Ball created Barkham, Inc., a non-profit that builds and remodels facilities, and LexLinc, a non-profit that assist welfare recipients to locate and obtain employment. He was an organizer and later board chair of the Hope Center, where he helped develop programs and services addressing the underlying causes of homelessness. And, Mr. Ball served as co-chair of the Recovery Kentucky Task Force, a program that helps Kentuckians recover from chronic substance abuse. He has been honored many times on the national, state and local levels, including the Hearthstone Builder Humanitarian Award for making his community a better place to work and live; the Sullivan Medallion from UK; and co-recipient with Mira Ball of both the Happy Chandler Kentuckian Award and the William T. Young Lifetime Achievement Award.

A proud UK graduate, Ms. Ball taught in the Fayette County Public Schools before co-founding Ball Homes and serving as chief financial officer and secretary-treasurer of the company. Her love for education has never wavered as she became the first woman to chair the UK Board of Trustees, as well as being the first woman chair of the Midway University Board of Trustees. Along with her husband, Ms. Ball has generously and faithfully given her time, talent and treasure in support of Kentucky Educational Television. She is a past chair and board member of the Children's Advocacy Center and has also carried out leadership responsibilities for Commerce Lexington, Inc., the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Bluegrass, the Kentucky Historical Society, the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship and the Kentucky Horse Park, to name just a few.