



# PROCLAMATION

COUNTY OF KENTON  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

**WHEREAS:** Kenneth F. Harper was born on January 15, 1931, in Covington, Kentucky. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951 and served in the Korean War. When he returned home from service, he joined his father in their family business; and

**WHEREAS:** Ken Harper married Eileen Kathman on May 16, 1953. Ken and Eileen together provided service and leadership to Northern Kentucky for decades. Ken Harper served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1964 to 1968 and from 1982 to 1994. He also served as Kentucky Secretary of State from 1971 to 1972. During his time as a state legislator, Mr. Harper championed the creation of Northern Kentucky University; and

**WHEREAS:** Ken Harper has been a Rotarian in the Covington Chapter of Rotary International since 1954 and served previously as Chapter President. With Rotary as the catalyst, Mr. Harper served many other organizations, including Thomas More University and the Parish Kitchen. During this time, Mr. Harper received many awards, such as Outstanding Young Man of Kentucky, Outstanding Jaycee, and the John F. Kennedy Award for Outstanding Contributions to State Government; and

**WHEREAS:** In March of 2020, Eileen passed away from complications of Covid-19. Community leaders together during their nearly 67 years of marriage, Ken established a scholarship fund in Eileen's name to support the next generation of health care professionals;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** We, the Kenton County Fiscal Court do hereby proclaim Ken Harper as a:

**“2021 KENTON COUNTY PIONEER AWARD HONOREE”**

In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hand,  
and caused to be affixed the Seal of the  
County of Kenton, Kentucky.

Judge/Executive Kris A. Knochelmann

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Dr. Jon Draud

Commissioner Joe Nienaber