

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1888

A RESOLUTION commemorating May 29, 2007, as the 90th anniversary of the birth of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

WHEREAS, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born on May 29, 1917, in Brookline, Massachusetts, the second son of Joseph P. Kennedy and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, and was taught by his parents at an early age that his family's wealth brought a responsibility of helping those less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, often referred to by his initials, JFK, was elected President of the United States in 1960, the first and to date only Roman Catholic to be elected President. At age 43, JFK was the youngest person ever elected President, and the first person born in the 20th century to have served as President; and

WHEREAS, JFK was sworn in as the 35th President on January 20, 1961. In his inaugural address he spoke of the need for all Americans to be active citizens and he famously remarked, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." He also asked the nations of the world to join together to fight what he called the "common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself;" and

WHEREAS, During the 1960 campaign, JFK and his opponent Richard Nixon appeared in the first televised presidential debates. JFK became the first "television" President, addressing the nation with many speeches and frequent news conferences which aired on the major television networks; and

WHEREAS, JFK's domestic program was known as the "New Frontier," which ambitiously promised federal funding for education; medical care for the elderly; government intervention to halt the recession; income tax reform; and an end to racial discrimination. He supported racial integration and civil rights, sending U.S. Marshals to integrate southern universities and proposing what would become the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, JFK's most famous legacies include the Alliance of Progress and Peace Corps, which helped underdeveloped nations in areas such as education, farming, health care and construction. Troubled by the long-term dangers of nuclear weapons proliferation, JFK pushed for the adoption of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. He established the space program and was the first to set a goal for landing a man on the Moon; and

WHEREAS, When U-2 spy planes took photographs of a Soviet missile site under construction in Cuba in 1962, JFK imposed a naval blockade of all ships in Cuban waters. The Cuban Missile Crisis, which brought the world closer to nuclear war than at any point before or since, was successfully averted; and

WHEREAS, JFK and his wife Jacqueline were both extraordinarily popular and along with their two young children, Caroline and John, Jr., brought new life and vigor to the White House. The Kennedys made it a place to celebrate American history, culture and achievement by inviting artists, writers, scientists, poets, musicians, actors and Nobel Prize winners to visit. Jacqueline also restored all the rooms in the White House and the charisma of JFK and his family led to the figurative label of "Camelot" for his administration; and

WHEREAS, On November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, President Kennedy was assassinated and pronounced dead at 1:00 p.m. CST — such a tragic moment in history that most people still remember where they were and what they were doing when they received the news. His death caused enormous sadness and grief among Americans, and millions watched his funeral on television; and

WHEREAS, JFK stands out in people's memories for his leadership, personality, wit, charm and accomplishments. He is now regarded as an icon of American hope and aspirations to every new generation of Americans: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we commemorate May 29, 2007, as the 90th anniversary of the birth of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, c/o Thomas J. Putnam, Director, Columbia Point, Boston, Massachusetts 02125.

Senate Resolution No. 1888 was sponsored by Senator Anthony Hensley.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

---

*President of the Senate.*

---

*Secretary of the Senate.*