

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1878

A RESOLUTION in memory of Senator James B. Pearson.

WHEREAS, Former Kansas and United States Senator James B. Pearson passed away on January 13, 2009 in his home in Gloucester, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pearson served the people of Kansas as state senator from 1956 to 1960, chairman of the Kansas GOP in 1960, and United States Senator from 1962 to 1978, during which time he served notably on the commerce committee and the foreign relations committee; and

WHEREAS, Among Senator Pearson's greatest accomplishments were his successful efforts to deregulate the natural gas industry, champion the rights of farmers and ranchers, and improve the agriculture and aviation industries in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pearson was born in Nashville, Tennessee on May 7, 1920. In 1934 he moved with his family to Virginia, and Pearson later attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He left school to serve in the United States Navy as a pilot during World War II, and from 1943 to 1946 he flew DC3 transport carriers across the country. While stationed at Olathe Naval Air Station he met his first wife, Martha Mitchell. In 1950 Senator Pearson graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, and then began his first law practice in Mission, Kansas. He served as Assistant County Attorney of Johnson County from 1952 to 1954 and County Probate Judge from 1954 to 1956 before being elected to his first term as Kansas State Senator in 1956. In 1960 he led John Anderson's successful campaign for Governor and was named chairman of the GOP. In 1962 Governor Anderson appointed Pearson to the United States Senate to replace the vacancy left by deceased Senator Andrew Schoeppel. Senator Pearson was subsequently reelected twice and served as a delegate to the United Nations until he retired from the Senate in 1978. Upon his retirement he moved to Baldwin City where he lived and farmed part-time. In 1980 he married his second wife, Margaret Lynch, and the two traveled extensively between the United States, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Senator Pearson spent the remainder of his years in Baldwin City and Gloucester, Massachusetts, where Senator Pearson read voraciously and ably painted Kansas landscapes in watercolor; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pearson served on the Baker University Board of Trustees, donated his papers to the University of Kansas, and was interested in the progress of Haskell Indian Nations University; and

WHEREAS, A United States government program with his namesake offers Foreign Service workers a chance to work in other branches of government in order to learn about domestic politics, and the James B. Pearson Fellowship allows graduates of Kansas public universities opportunities to study abroad; and

WHEREAS, The post office in his hometown of Prairie Village was named the James B. Pearson Post Office in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pearson is survived by his wife Margaret, his sons James, Thomas and William, his daughter Laura, and his sister Virginia: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor James Pearson for his years of dedicated service to the government and people of Kansas and the United States and that we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, constituents and admirers; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide five enrolled copies of this resolution to Baker University.

Senate Resolution No. 1878 was sponsored by Senators Tom Holland and Derek Schmidt.

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

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*