

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6044

A RESOLUTION honoring John F. Hayes on his lifelong public and legal service to his community and state.

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes, former Majority Leader of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, passed away on January 14, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, John F. Hayes was committed to public service to his community and the State of Kansas, and to the honest and ethical practice of law; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes was born on December 11, 1919, in Salina, and was the only child of J. Frank and Helen Dye Hayes. A short time later John and his family moved to Hutchinson; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes was graduated from Hutchinson High School, Hutchinson Community College and Washburn University; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes served his country with distinction as a Captain in the United States Army during World War II on active duty from 1942-1946, in the Phillipines and New Hebrides Islands; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes was graduated from Washburn University School of Law with a LLB in 1946, and began the practice of law which would continue throughout the next 60 years. The law firm, Gilliland and Hayes, which he founded with Robert Gilliland, celebrated its 50th anniversary on December 15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes' service to the legal profession is characterized by his integrity, diligence, steadfast commitment to defense law, his tireless and patient teaching and mentoring of countless lawyers, his hard work, concise writing and speaking style, and the utmost admiration and recognition of lawyers and judges alike as one of the leading trial lawyers in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes served as president of the Reno County Bar Association and the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel, and served as a member of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Bar Foundation, Kansas Bar Foundation, American Bar Association and the Kansas Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes was married to Elizabeth "Betty" Ireton on August 10, 1950, and the couple were blessed with two children, Carl and Chandler, and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes was immensely active in his home community of Hutchinson while serving as President of the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce, Hutchinson Rotary Club, Hutchinson Town Club and the Prairie Dunes Country Club, vice-president of the Hutchinson Symphony and as a long-time director of Central Bank and Trust. He also served as a director and district vice-president of the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes served six terms in the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas where he served as Chairman of the Insurance and Judiciary committees and as Majority Leader of the House of Representatives. During his service in the Legislature he was instrumental in the passage of legislation which established Sand Hills State Park and the Law Enforcement Training Center at Hutchinson, and deeply involved in the passage of court unification and the state's no-fault insurance law, and improving the Kansas State Fair. John Hayes understood the legislative rules and parliamentary procedure of the legislature better than anyone while tirelessly working for his constituents and the state of Kansas. While he masterly worked on the floor of the House, his wife Betty, maintained an almost constant vigil in the gallery; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes also served as a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 1952; and

WHEREAS, John F. Hayes will be remembered for his many important contributions to the legal profession and his dedicated service to the community of Hutchinson and the State of Kansas, but he will be most remembered for the positive impact in a very personal way he had on all the lives he touched and improved; and

WHEREAS, The many significant contributions of John F. Hayes are evident but are overshadowed by his quiet and dedicated manner, his passion for his community and state and the practice of law, his honesty and integrity and his respectful guidance to those in his presence; and

WHEREAS, Although the State of Kansas and his family and friends have suffered a great loss, his true legacy is that his influence and teachings live on through the lives of the many people he came in contact with during his life: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we honor and commemorate the lifelong public and legal service of John F. Hayes, selflessly dedicated to his community, state and all whose lives he touched.

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

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.