

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1753

A RESOLUTION commemorating May 29, 2017, as the 100th anniversary of the birth of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

WHEREAS, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born on May 29, 1917, in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was 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 to help those who were less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, often referred to as JFK, was elected President of the United States in 1960 and was the first and only Roman Catholic to ever 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, 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 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, 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 in the early 1960s, income tax reform, and an end to racial discrimination. He supported racial integration and civil rights, and he accomplished this by sending United States Marshals to integrate southern universities and by promoting legislation that would become the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, JFK's most famous foreign policy programs were the Alliance for Progress and the Peace Corps, which helped underdeveloped nations in areas such as education, farming, health care and construction projects. Troubled by the dangers of nuclear weapons proliferation, JFK pushed for the adoption of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. He established the space program and set a goal of landing a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, When U-2 spy planes photographed a Soviet missile site under construction in Cuba in 1962, JFK proposed a naval blockade of all ships in Cuban waters. This crisis, known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, which brought the world closer to nuclear war than at any time in history, was successfully averted; and

WHEREAS, JFK and his wife, Jacqueline, were 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 while traveling in his motorcade and was pronounced dead at 1:00 p.m. CST – a moment so tragic in American history that most people still remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news. His death caused enormous sadness and grief among Americans and people across the globe, and millions watched his funeral and burial on television; and

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

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we commemorate May 29, 2017, as the 100th anniversary of the birth of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, c/o James Roth, Acting Director, Columbia Point, Boston, Massachusetts 02125.

Senate Resolution No. 1753 was sponsored by Senators Anthony Hensley and Susan Wagle.

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.