

SENATE BILL No. 431

By Senators Blasi, Bowers and Wilborn

1-31

1 AN ACT concerning the state capitol; directing the capitol preservation
2 committee to approve plans for a memorial honoring the life of Emil
3 Joseph Kapaun.

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5 WHEREAS, Emil Joseph Kapaun was born in the farming community
6 of Pilsen, Kansas, in 1916; and

7 WHEREAS, Emil Joseph Kapaun was ordained as a Roman Catholic
8 priest in the Diocese of Wichita in 1940; and

9 WHEREAS, Emil Joseph Kapaun served as a chaplain in the United
10 States Army and attained the rank of Captain; and

11 WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun served in the India-Burma Theater of
12 the Pacific campaign in World War II and at the outbreak of the Korean
13 War where he was captured in the Battle of Unsan for refusing to leave the
14 wounded; and

15 WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun died as a prisoner of war in Pyoktong,
16 North Korea, on May 23, 1951, after giving his life to serve his fellow
17 prisoners of war; and

18 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Chaplain
19 Kapaun with the Medal of Honor on April 11, 2013; and

20 WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun is the most highly decorated chaplain in
21 United States Army history receiving the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star
22 Medal with "V" device, the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal and
23 the Republic of Korea Taegeuk Order of Military Merit presented by
24 President Moon Jae-In; and

25 WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun's life continues to inspire people across
26 the United States and around the world; and

27 WHEREAS, Work is being undertaken to name Chaplain Kapaun as a
28 saint in the Catholic Church, from whom he has received the designation
29 of Servant of God; and

30 WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun's life embodies the Kansas spirit and
31 exemplifies the state motto "Ad astra per aspera"; and

32 Now, therefore:

33 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

34 Section 1. (a) The capitol preservation committee shall approve plans
35 to place a permanent memorial honoring the life of Emil Joseph Kapaun
36 pursuant to K.S.A. 75-2269, and amendments thereto.

1 (b) The secretary of administration is hereby authorized to receive
2 moneys from any grants, gifts, contributions or bequests made for the
3 purpose of financing the creation and construction of the memorial and to
4 expend such moneys received for such purpose. The secretary of
5 administration shall remit all moneys so received to the state treasurer in
6 accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments
7 thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall
8 deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the Emil
9 Joseph Kapaun memorial fund. No public funds shall be expended for the
10 purpose of financing the creation or construction of the memorial.

11 (c) There is hereby established in the state treasury the Emil Joseph
12 Kapaun memorial fund. Expenditures from the fund may be made for the
13 purposes of creating and constructing the memorial and for such other
14 purposes as may be specified with regard to any grant, gift, contribution or
15 bequest. All such expenditures shall be made upon warrants of the director
16 of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the
17 secretary of administration or the secretary's designee.

18 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
19 publication in the statute book.