



To: Senator Mike Thompson, Chairman, Kansas Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Date: February 14, 2024

Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I am writing to express my full support for Senate Bill 431, which seeks to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Father Emil Joseph Kapaun. Father Kapaun is not only a Marion County, KS hero, he represents the best of all Kansans. Father Kapaun's selfless dedication to service, his unwavering courage, and his profound impact on the lives of countless individuals make him a truly deserving candidate for recognition.

Father Emil Kapaun's story is one of extraordinary heroism and compassion. As a chaplain during the Korean War, he displayed immense bravery by tending to the spiritual and physical needs of his fellow soldiers, often risking his own life to provide comfort and aid on the battlefield. His acts of courage and sacrifice, including his refusal to abandon wounded soldiers and his steadfast commitment to upholding the values of faith and humanity in the face of adversity, serve as a shining example of the best of the human spirit.

Moreover, Father Kapaun's legacy extends far beyond his actions during the war. His profound impact on the lives of those he served continues to inspire generations, both within the Marion County community and beyond. Through his compassionate ministry, he touched the hearts of many and left an indelible mark on the world.

By honoring Father Emil Joseph Kapaun through Senate Bill 431, we not only pay tribute to a true American hero but also uphold the values of courage, compassion, and selflessness that he embodied. This recognition serves as a reminder of the importance of service to others and the enduring power of faith in times of trial.

I urge all Kansans to support Senate Bill 431 and join in honoring the memory of Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, whose life serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for us all.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and thank you for your consideration.

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