

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1827

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Jeffrey Hanson for being named one of the top two youth volunteers in Kansas for 2011 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hanson, 17, a resident of Overland Park and a junior at Horizon Academy, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by receiving a 2011 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey has generated more than \$225,000 for various local and national charities over the past five years by selling and donating original paintings and other artistic creations, despite having a genetic condition that causes severe loss of vision; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey began going blind in the fall of 2005 from neurofibromatosis and an optic nerve tumor. While undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment, he began painting watercolor note cards to raise money for neurofibromatosis research and discovered he had a talent for art. Soon after, he set up a "Jeff's Bistro" in his driveway every Saturday where he sold note cards, paintings and baked goods. He raised more than \$15,000 for the Children's Tumor Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Demand for Jeffrey's painted note cards grew and he began selling notepads, calendars, greeting cards and acrylic paintings on canvas, with much of the profit going to various charitable foundations. Jeffrey also donates canvases to his favorite auction fundraisers. Jeffrey's first solo-artist exhibition sold 118 canvases in four hours and generated thousands for Children's Mercy Hospital and an orphanage in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, Because of his efforts, Jeffrey was nominated by Horizon Academy for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. This prestigious award, presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities. As a state honoree, Jeffrey received \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense paid trip in early May 2011 to Washington, D.C., where he will join other honorees from each of the other states and the District of Columbia for several days of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, The success of the state of Kansas, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Jeffrey who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Jeffrey Hanson for being named one of two state recipients of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, we honor his outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership and community spirit, and we extend our best wishes for his continued success and happiness; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Vratil.

Senate Resolution No. 1827 was sponsored by Senator John Vratil.

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.*