

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1828

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending sculptor Elden Tefft.

WHEREAS, Elden Tefft was born December 1919, in Hartford, Kansas. He served in the United States Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1946; received a bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1949 and a master's degree in fine arts in 1950 at the University of Kansas; and initiated the major and master's sculpture programs at the University of Kansas. Presently, he is a Professor Emeritus of Art at the University of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tefft has used his talents to become a nationally recognized sculptor of bronze. His famous pieces include "Moses," which is located outside Smith Hall at the University of Kansas; "Jayhawk," which is located outside Strong Hall at the University of Kansas and stands as the school's symbol; "Ichabod," which is located at the Washburn University stadium; "Wildcat," which is located at Baker University; "James Naismith," which is located at Springfield College in Massachusetts and a second, identical statue is scheduled for installation this spring at Naismith's hometown in Almonte, Ontario; "Keepers of the Universe," which is located at Burcham Park in Lawrence; "Trails West," which was first located at the former Kansas Travel Information Center in Olathe but is now located at Lone Elm Park in Olathe; "Chesty Lion," which is located at Lawrence High School; and "Hawk," which is located at Olathe East High School; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his sculpture work, Mr. Tefft redesigned the University of Kansas' seal, which is now the current seal of the university; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tefft began experimenting with bronze work in the 1940's. In the early 1950's, he received permission to establish a sculpture foundry while teaching sculpture classes on the third floor of Strong Hall at the University of Kansas. The foundry was first built in Bailey Annex and the sculpture classes were then moved to that facility. In 1960, he established a biennial conference that brought together sculptors from around the world and founded what would eventually become the International Sculpture Center based in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Since 1960, Mr. Tefft has published numerous books and articles on sculpture and bronze casting, wax sculpting, waste mold casting and head and figure molding; he has documented his research in techniques, sculpture founding and finished sculptures in film and has edited and compiled the first nine biennial International Sculpture Conferences; and

WHEREAS, During his accomplished career, Mr. Tefft helped to further establish educational sculpture foundries throughout the United States, Latin America and Asia. He has a monumental sculpture in Tianjin, China, titled "Peace Star," which was placed in 2009 as part of "The China and the United States Memorial Sculpture of Peace and Friendship Project," in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of opening diplomatic relations between China and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tefft is the recipient of the Phoenix Award in exceptional artistic achievement from the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission in 2008, an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Baker University in 1999, the state of Kansas Governor's Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1997, Recognition of Contribution to City Enhancement and Cultural Interchange from the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission in 1982, the Outstanding Service to Contemporary Sculpture citation from the Southern Association of Sculptors in 1977, and is listed in *Who's Who in American Art*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tefft continues to create bronze and stone artwork on a daily basis out of his and his son's studio, Tefft Terra Studios: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Elden Tefft for his outstanding accomplishments and thank him for his many contributions to Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall be directed to provide 15 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Holland.

Senate Resolution No. 1828 was sponsored by Senator Tom Holland.

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.*