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February 13, 2024

SB 431 - Father Kapaun Written Testimony

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

The Honorable Mike Thompson, Chair:

We, as the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners, want to honor Chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun who paid the ultimate price for the freedom of our great nation. We honor Chaplain Kapaun and the dead by supporting our living veterans. The dead cannot hear our voices as we pray for their sacrifice, so please take time to thank those who can still hear your voices — those who have served, so they can pass on your thanks when they meet our fallen heroes in heaven. We look forward to the day we can thank him in person and tell him that the State of Kansas honors his life.

The memorial proposed in Senate Bill No. 431 honors our hometown hero who is interred in Sedgwick County. His service to our great nation is recognized by everyone who has worn the uniform and those who support our military. His numerous awards, including the Medal of Honor, is deserving of a memorial at our statehouse. Kansas veterans hear your voices when you vote on this bill. With this in mind, the Sedgwick County Commission asks our state senators and representatives to join us in thanking Chaplain Kapaun. He deserves a special place because he was willing to sign a blank check with his life.

The great General George S. Patton said, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God such men lived."

The Sedgwick County Commission is grateful that Chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun - a Kansan – lived, and we ask you to reflect on all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

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President Reagan said, "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A veteran does not have that problem." We know Father Emil Kapaun does not have that problem.

We continue to mourn Father Kapaun and all veterans who have died in service to Kansas and our great nation loss, but most of all, we celebrate their lives.

This memorial will celebrate Father Kapaun's life. Please support Senate Bill No. 431 to construct a memorial honoring the life of Emil Joseph Kapaun.

Thank you. God bless America and God bless all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Respectfully,



Ryan Baty, Chairman
Commissioner - Fourth District



Sarah Lopez, Chair Pro Tem
Commissioner – Second District



Peter F. Meitzner
Commissioner – First District



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Commissioner – Third District



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