

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1812

A RESOLUTION commemorating January 30, 2007, as the 125th anniversary of the birth of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, in the Hudson Valley in upstate New York, and was taught at an early age that his family's wealth brought a responsibility of helping those less fortunate and later observing the vast poverty in the cities and rural countryside found it necessary to immerse himself in politics; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, often referred to by his initials FDR, became the 32nd President of the United States in 1933 and was faced with the daunting task of lifting the country out of a crippling depression. He traveled the nation speaking to farmers who had lost all their worldly possessions, meeting with relief organizations over-burdened by the demands of those in need and addressing the fears of people struggling to survive; and

WHEREAS, FDR proclaimed that, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and pledged a new deal for the American people who were "ill-housed, ill-clad and ill-nourished"— a new deal that created jobs that provided the necessary encouragement, hope and self-esteem to assist millions of unemployed workers to recapture their economic worth; and

WHEREAS, FDR emerged as champion of the common people and routinely communicated his reassurance via the radio in his "fireside chats." While popular with the common people, he was also denounced as "traitor to his class" because the changes he proposed reduced the power, status and income of those who profited most from the old order; and

WHEREAS, FDR's most famous legacies include the Social Security system, the regulation of Wall Street and the GI Bill of Rights; and his New Deal programs included the Civilian Conservation Corps, which developed most of our national parks, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, which built dams and power stations in the poverty-stricken South; and

WHEREAS, FDR and his wife Eleanor redefined liberalism for subsequent generations and realigned the Democratic Party based on his New Deal coalition of labor unions; farmers; ethnic, religious and racial minorities; the South; big city machines; and workers on relief; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 39, FDR contracted an illness, at the time believed to be poliomyelitis, which resulted in his total and permanent paralysis from the waist down. He was encouraged by his wife Eleanor to finance a polio rehabilitation center in Warm Springs, Georgia, to help those who could not help themselves. He also helped to found the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, later known as the March of Dimes. His leadership in this organization is one reason he is commemorated on the dime; and

WHEREAS, FDR's New Deal began to show promise when the country was thrown into World War II and the same generation that survived the Great Depression was called upon literally to save the world from destruction. From the factories and farms on the home front, to the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific, they galvanized into an effort that has not been witnessed since; and

WHEREAS, During the war, FDR provided decisive leadership against Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan and made the United States the principal arms supplier and financier of the Allies as it became the "Arsenal of Democracy" and put 16,000,000 American men and women in uniform. He also played a critical role in shaping the post-war world, particularly through the Yalta Conference and the creation of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, FDR led the country to the impending defeat of Nazi Germany and to within sight of the defeat of Japan when on April 12, 1945, he died of a cerebral hemorrhage at his home in Warm Springs, Georgia. Less than a month later, on May 8, came V-E Day and President Harry Truman dedicated V-E Day to Roosevelt's memory, paying tribute to his commitment towards ending the war in Europe; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected to four terms, serving as President of the United States an unprecedented 12 years, and has consistently been ranked as one of the three greatest presidents in scholarly surveys: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we commemorate January 30, 2007, as the 125th anniversary of the birth of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, c/o Cynthia M. Koch, Director, 4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, New York 12538.

Senate Resolution No. 1812 was sponsored by Senator Anthony Hensley.

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.*