

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1843

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Matthew Heck.

WHEREAS, Matthew Heck, an esteemed resident of Wichita and a senior at Wichita High School East, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by being named a Distinguished Finalist for the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Matthew Heck earned this award by giving generously of his time and energy to organize a two-week, 1,300 mile relay run from Wichita to Washington, D.C., that promoted public awareness of genocide and raised more than \$25,000 for the Genocide Intervention Network; and

WHEREAS, In order to organize this cross-country marathon to promote genocide awareness, with the coordination of the Genocide Intervention Network in Washington, D.C., Matthew worked to: Set up a nonprofit organization to accept donations; plan the logistics for the relay; recruit eight other teens to join him; solicit contributions from friends, family members and local businesses and create a website (www.neverignore.org); and

WHEREAS, Matthew and his fellow runners left Wichita, Kansas on June 2, 2008, taking turns running 13 miles a day through eight states. To ensure that his endeavor raised awareness he contacted media along the relay route and afterwards would give speeches to schools, churches and other audiences; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his service, Mr. Heck has received a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, D.C., where a distinguished National Selection Committee will name ten National Honorees who will receive additional \$5,000 awards, gold medallions, crystal trophies and \$5,000 grants from the Prudential Foundation for charitable organizations of their choice; and

WHEREAS, The success of the State of Kansas, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of American society depends, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Mr. Heck 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 Matthew Heck for being named a Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, that we recognize his outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership and community spirit and that we wish him luck and continued success; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Matthew Heck at 11420 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS, 67212.

Senate Resolution No. 1843 was sponsored by Senator Leslie D. Donovan, Sr.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.