

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6057

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Newman University in Wichita, Kansas.

WHEREAS, The origins of Newman University can be traced to the village of Acuto, Italy, where in 1834 a young woman named Maria De Mattias (now St. Maria De Mattias) founded the order of religious women known as the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. The Sisters came to the United States beginning in 1870, and by 1902 they had settled in Wichita, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In 1933, Mother Beata Netenmeyer established Sacred Heart Junior College, at the height of the Great Depression. Despite the obstacles, the college steadily developed, training the Sisters as teachers and providing education for lay women in teacher education, nursing, secretarial science and home economics; and

WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Junior College experienced numerous transformations over the years, and with the growth in campus facilities, enrollment, academic programs and student services, the institution changed its name in July 1988 to Newman University; and

WHEREAS, Newman University's identity is best described by its Mission, Core Values, the Newman Code and the Mission of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Newman University's Mission Statement is: "We are a Catholic University named for John Henry Cardinal Newman and founded by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ for the purpose of empowering graduates to transform society." This corresponds to the mission of the Sisters of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, which is "To celebrate life, foster oneness, walk as compassionate companions and empower others"; and

WHEREAS, Newman University's Mission Statement is grounded in the following Core Values: Catholic identity, academic excellence, culture of service and global perspective; and

WHEREAS, As a Catholic institution of higher learning, Newman finds guidance in teachings of the Catholic Church and draws nourishment from its relationships with surrounding Catholic communities and dioceses. Its Catholic identity is distinctively shared by the influence of both its founders and sponsors, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, and of its namesake, the Catholic theologian and educator John Henry Cardinal Newman. With a strong liberal arts foundation, its curriculum honors the richness and vitality of its Catholic intellectual heritage while affirming the value of dialogue involving persons of varied cultures and religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, Newman University seeks to educate the whole person. Newman's faculty strives to utilize best practices in instruction, the insights derived from scholarly research and a culture of assessment to promote classroom and program improvement, while the small college atmosphere facilitates the development of an active, dynamic learning community; and

WHEREAS, Newman University exemplifies a culture of service by fostering a culture where members of the community are encouraged to find personally fulfilling ways of growing through serving more than 240,000 hours per year. Through its humanitarian commitment to helping the underserved, Newman students honor the mission of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ by developing and empowering people; and

WHEREAS, Newman University is committed to promoting an interdependent global perspective formed by a critical consciousness that hungers and thirsts for justice and peace. This perspective affirms the interdependent nature of all of creation, while at the same time speaks to the ideal of the educated person in the modern world. Newman University seeks to encourage a diverse array of students in outstanding educational experiences designed to cultivate the knowledge, skills and values that they will need to become leaders in the transformation of an increasingly complex and interconnected world; and

WHEREAS, Newman University's Code is "As a member of the Newman community, I pledge to live in the spirit of critical consciousness by respecting the dignity of every person, honoring both personal and institutional integrity and striving to embrace all humanity"; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 3,300 students attend Newman University, and they hail from 23 states and 33 countries; and

WHEREAS, More than 15,000 alumni are proud to call Newman University their alma mater; graduates include doctors, attorneys, health care professionals, educators, scientists and business leaders across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Newman University's commitment to education is unparalleled. Its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we commend and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Newman University in Wichita. Newman University provides students of Kansas with incredible opportunities and we urge all Kansans to celebrate its success.

House Resolution No. 6057 was sponsored by Representative Ponka-We Victors.

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

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.