

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1726

A RESOLUTION honoring the legendary Kansas sculptor Pete Felten on his 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, The legendary sculptor, iconic artist and lifelong Kansan Pete Felten Jr., was born in April 1933 in Hays, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, While attending Hays High School, Felten was recognized as a track star and expert swimmer; and

WHEREAS, After graduating high school, Felten enrolled in courses at Fort Hays State University and served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 through 1956; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after serving his country, Felten started sculpting limestone in 1957 at the age of 24; and

WHEREAS, Felten is described as a gracious, sharing and contributing member of the Hays community; and

WHEREAS, Felten's limestone works have made him a cultural, historic and renowned icon in Hays, the State of Kansas and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, With just a hammer and a chisel, Felten has crafted hundreds of limestone landmarks, monuments and symbols throughout Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, Felten finished Buffalo Bill Cody, Felten's first large commissioned piece, located in front of the Hays Public Library; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Felten completed Monarch of the Plains, a monstrous 8-foot-high, 24-ton sculpture at the historic Fort Hays, just off U.S. Highway 183, to commemorate the centennial of the City of Hays; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Felten created the Hereford Bull, located at the Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center, to commemorate the center's 75th anniversary celebration in 1976; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, Felten was commissioned to carve for the Kansas State Capitol the likeness of four prominent Kansans, namely, former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart, Topeka journalist and former U.S. Senator Arthur Capper and Emporia journalist William Allen White; and

WHEREAS, In Hays, Felten meticulously carved the sculptures of the same four famous Kansans out of Silverdale limestone, which came from southeastern Kansas, during a three-year span; and

WHEREAS, Later, the sculptures of the four famous Kansans were moved east 200-some miles down Interstate 70, to be displayed in the rotunda of the Kansas State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Kansas State Capitol visitors will be able to enjoy, learn and appreciate Felten's four famous Kansans sculptures for generations to come: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we honor the sculptor Pete Felten on his 90th birthday; and

Be it further resolved: That we celebrate the hundreds of limestone creations sculpted by Felten, including his four famous Kansans in the Kansas State Capitol; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Bowers.

Senate Resolution No. 1726 was sponsored by Senators Elaine Bowers and Rick Billinger.

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.