



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Father Emil J. Kapaun, Chaplain, US Army, a native of Pilsen, Kansas, and accredited by the Diocese of Wichita, United States of America, was Chaplain of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Korea, in 1950, and

WHEREAS Chaplain Kapaun distinguished himself, as both a Soldier and a Chaplain, on the field of battle in Korea during the early days of the Korean War in an uncommon manner, ministering both spiritually and physically to his fellow Soldiers, particularly the sick, wounded and dying, becoming a legend among the troops he served, and

WHEREAS Chaplain Kapaun further distinguished himself by ministering to the wounded and dying of his Regiment, during the height of the fierce battle at Unsan, North Korea on November 2, 1950, in which his Regiment faced overwhelming odds because of the Chinese Communist invasion of Korea, a battle from which Chaplain Kapaun might have escaped but remained behind ministering to the wounded and dying, as provided in the Geneva Conventions, a decision resulting in his capture by the Chinese Communist Command, and

WHEREAS Chaplain Kapaun, illegally designated a Prisoner of War rather than a detained person, as provided for in the Geneva Conventions, while a prisoner of war in several camps in the vicinity of PYOKTONG, NORTH KOREA, unselfishly gave himself in total service to his fellow Prisoners of War, his military duty and his commitment as an instrument of God, without regard to race, color, or creed, performing **EXCEEDINGLY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY** to provide aid and comfort to his fellow Prisoners of War urging their will to live and will to continue to be American and Free World fighting men even in captivity, all at the cost of his own health and well-being as evidenced by numerous documented acts of the most conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, in the presence of an armed enemy, and

WHEREAS Chaplain Kapaun died on May 23, 1951, of abuse by his captors, respiratory disease and a blood clot in his leg, confined to a filthy Communist prison "death house" tending to his flock up until he could do so no longer, his sacrifice an example to inspire and encourage his companions and others held as Prisoners of War throughout the camps as they received word of his indomitable courage and spirit for God and Country, and

WHEREAS Chaplain Kapaun through the example of his life and military duty has become one of the most popular heroes of the Korean War, Soldier and Saint, an inspiration to his fellow prisoners, and all who serve in the military, who gave of himself until he was spent, often referred to as the man who best sums up the glory of the Chaplain Corps, and

WHEREAS Chaplain Kapaun was universally known as a "soldier's soldier" and a saint by those who served with him during his military service, and especially by those who suffered with him in the brutal Communist prison camps, and

WHEREAS the life and heroic exploits of Chaplain Kapaun are widely known throughout the Chaplain Corps and the Korean War Veteran Community and to numbers of the public in the US and other nations of the world, and

WHEREAS the Vatican, in 1993, in testimony of the love and affection of those who knew him and of his extraordinary love of and devotion to his fellow man, announced that Emil J. Kapaun was to be named a "Servant of God," the first step to an eventual elevation to sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church, and

WHEREAS the *United States Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations (USFKVO), Inc.*, notes and supports the efforts among the five million American Korea war and Korea service veterans community, and the resolutions of the *Korean War Veterans Association, USA (KWVA)* and many other American institutions seeking the appropriate posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun, US Army; so,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *United States Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations (USFKVO), Inc.*, supports the recommendation for **posthumous award of THE MEDAL OF HONOR to Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun**, one of the US Army's and United Nations Command's finest, and we encourage the Senior US Army Decorations Board to favorably act on this resolution and all other petitions to this end; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the *United States Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations (USFKVO), Inc.*, calls upon the *International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations*, Seoul, Korea, and all veterans groups in the free world to support this resolution.

Approved and enacted, April 24th, 2005, at Alexandria, Louisiana, United States of America

Louis T Dechert, Co-Chairman

s/ Louis T Dechert

Jeffrey J Brodeur, Co-Chairman

s/ Jeffrey J Brodeur

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