

Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Kurt
Vonnegut, Jr.

Bauer, Porter

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Whereas, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. came into this world on November 11, 1922, Armistice Day, in Indianapolis, Indiana;

Whereas, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. was the great-grandson of Clemens Vonnegut, founder of Vonnegut's Hardware Store; the grandson of Bernard Vonnegut, cofounder of the architectural firm of Vonnegut & Bohn, designers of such historic Indianapolis structures as Das Deutsche Haus, now known as The Athenaeum, Methodist Hospital, and the original L.S. Ayres store; and the son of Kurt Vonnegut Sr., a prominent Indianapolis architect, and Edith Lieber, the daughter of Indianapolis brewer Albert Lieber;

Whereas, During his formative years, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. attended Orchard School and Public School No. 43, the James Whitcomb Riley School, near his family's home on Illinois Street, and graduated from Shortridge High School, where he was editor of "The Echo," at the time one of the few high school daily newspapers in the United States;

Whereas, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. attended Cornell University, studying chemistry and biology, until enlisting in the United States Army in 1943 and serving in Europe until he was captured by German troops during the Battle of the Bulge;

Whereas, After being captured, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. was put to work as a prisoner of war in Dresden, Germany, where he



survived the Allied firebombing that destroyed the city, killed approximately 135,000 people, and became the basis of his classic novel "Slaughterhouse-Five";

Whereas, After Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. returned from Europe, he worked at the Chicago City News Bureau while pursuing graduate studies in anthropology at the University of Chicago, which finally awarded him his Master of Arts degree in 1971 after accepting his novel "Cat's Cradle" in lieu of a thesis;

Whereas, While working in public relations for General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. began a writing career that produced numerous short stories, plays, screenplays, essays, and novels, including "Player Piano," "The Sirens of Titan," "Bluebeard," "Hocus Pocus," "Timequake," "Cat's Cradle," "Breakfast of Champions," and "Slaughterhouse-Five";

Whereas, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. has been called "a master of contemporary American literature," "America's greatest satirist," "a laughing prophet of doom," "George Orwell, Dr. Caligari and Flash Gordon compounded into one writer," and "a zany but moral mad scientist";

Whereas, The mayor of Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission, and the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library proclaimed 2007 to be The Year of Kurt Vonnegut in Indianapolis; and

Whereas, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. passed away April 11, 2007, at the age of 84: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly acknowledges the
- 2 accomplishments of Indianapolis native son and Hoosier legend Kurt
- 3 Vonnegut, Jr. as a major figure in English literature for more than half
- 4 a century and a grandmaster of contemporary American letters.
- 5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of



- 1 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of
- 2 Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. And so it goes*

