

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the late Governor Joe Kernan and urging the Indiana Department of Administration to place a memorial bust of Governor Kernan within the State Capitol.

NIEZGODSKI, MISHLER

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 123rd General Assembly (2023)

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RESOLUTION No. _____**

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the late
2 Governor Joe Kernan and urging the Indiana Department of
3 Administration to place a memorial bust of Governor Kernan
4 within the State Capitol.

5 *Whereas, Governor Joe Kernan was raised in South Bend,*
6 *Indiana, attending St. Joseph High School before graduating*
7 *from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in*
8 *Government in 1968;*

9 *Whereas, In 1969 Governor Kernan joined the United*
10 *States Navy where he served as a Naval Flight Officer, serving*
11 *on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, and flying over 26*
12 *reconnaissance missions over Laos and North Vietnam during*
13 *the Vietnam War;*

14 *Whereas, Governor Kernan's aircraft was shot down by*
15 *enemy forces on May 7, 1972, and he was imprisoned in Hanoi,*
16 *North Vietnam, until March 27, 1973;*

17 *Whereas, For his service, a grateful nation awarded*
18 *Governor Kernan with the Distinguished Flying Cross, two*
19 *Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, and the Navy Commendation*
20 *Medal;*

21 *Whereas, While serving in the U.S. Naval Reserves, Kernan*
22 *began working in local government, serving as controller of*
23 *South Bend from 1980-1984 before being elected mayor of*
24 *South Bend in 1987, 1991, and 1995, when he won with more*



1 *than 82% of the vote;*

2 *Whereas, In 1996, Kernan was elected Lieutenant*
3 *Governor in partnership with Governor Frank O'Bannon and*
4 *the two were re-elected by Hoosiers in 2000;*

5 *Whereas, During his term as Lt. Governor, Kernan served*
6 *as President of the Indiana Senate, the director of the Indiana*
7 *Department of Commerce, and as Commissioner of*
8 *Agriculture;*

9 *Whereas, Upon the death of Governor Frank O'Bannon,*
10 *Kernan assumed the position to become the 48th Governor of*
11 *Indiana;*

12 *Whereas, During his time in office, Governor Kernan*
13 *appointed Kathy Davis as the first female Lieutenant Governor,*
14 *launched "Opportunity Indiana" to increase opportunities for*
15 *Indiana business, promoted full-day kindergarten and the*
16 *state's community college system, created the Hoosier Health*
17 *Plan, supported the I-69 expansion, and was the first governor*
18 *in 48 years to spare the life of an inmate on death row by*
19 *commuting the sentence to life in prison without parole;*

20 *Whereas, Following the election of 2004, Governor Kernan*
21 *returned to South Bend where he taught at the University of*
22 *Notre Dame and became involved in various business and*
23 *community affairs, including the effort to keep the minor league*
24 *baseball team, the Silver Hawks, in South Bend;*

25 *Whereas, Governor Kernan passed away in his beloved*
26 *South Bend, Indiana on July 29, 2020;*

27 *Whereas, The IAC Foundation was formed in 1983 as an*
28 *adjunct to the Indianapolis Athletic Club and while the Athletic*
29 *Club closed in 2004, the Foundation has continued its*
30 *charitable operations; and*

31 *Whereas, The IAC Foundation wishes to honor the memory*
32 *of Governor Kernan, a proud Irish American during the 2023*



1 *St. Patrick's Day events in Indianapolis and as part of this*
2 *recognition, the IAC Foundation has commissioned a bronze*
3 *bust of Governor Kernan, created by noted Indianapolis*
4 *sculptor Ryan Feeney and financed with private contributions*
5 *to the IAC Foundation: Therefore,*

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

9 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly honors the
10 life and memory of Joe Kernan, a man of noble distinction.

11 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the
12 Indiana Department of Administration to place the bronze bust
13 of Governor Kernan within the State Capitol for permanent
14 display in honor of Governor Kernan's selfless service to the
15 state of Indiana and the United States of America.

16 SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
17 to transmit copies of this resolution to former First Lady
18 Maggie Kernan, the IAC Foundation, and the Commissioner of
19 the Department of Administration.

