

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

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2 (By Delegates Boggs, Doyle, Walker, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Thompson,
3 and Delegates Barill, Barker, Butcher, D. Campbell, T. Campbell,
4 Cann, Caputo, Craig, Crosier, Ennis, Ferns, Ferro, Frazier,
5 Givens, Hall, Hartman, Hunt, Iaquinta, Jones, Kominar, Lawrence,
6 Longstreth, Mahan, Manypenny, Marshall, Martin, Michael, Moore,
7 Morgan, O'Neal, Paxton, Perry, Pethtel, L. Phillips, R. Phillips,
8 Pino, D. Poling, Poore, Reynolds, Rodighiero, Shaver, Sigler,
9 Smith, Snuffer, Staggers, Stephens, Stowers, Swartzmiller,
10 Talbott, Varner, White and Williams)

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13 Requesting the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to
14 approve the replacement of the statue of John Edward Kenna
15 with one of Robert Carlyle Byrd in Statuary Hall and creating
16 a legislative committee to study the implementation of the
17 Robert Carlyle Byrd statue placement and designating Robert
18 Carlyle Byrd to be honored and memorialized with a statue in
19 the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol in
20 Washington, D. C.

21 WHEREAS, By Act of Congress of the United States, each state is
22 invited to provide two statues of distinguished citizens for
23 display in the United States Capitol. West Virginia provided two
24 statues of notable citizens as part of the National Statuary Hall

1 collection: John Edward Kenna, given in 1901, and Francis Harrison
2 Pierpont, given in 1910; and

3 WHEREAS, Robert C. Byrd was born Cornelius Calvin Sale, Junior
4 on November 20, 1917, and was raised by his adoptive parents who
5 renamed him Robert Carlyle Byrd. He worked as a gas station
6 attendant, a grocery store clerk, a shipyard welder and a butcher
7 growing up in a small mining community in Southern West Virginia.
8 He married his high school sweetheart, Erma Ora James, in 1937; and

9 WHEREAS, Robert C. Byrd was elected to the West Virginia House
10 of Delegates in 1946 and 1948; elected to the West Virginia Senate
11 in 1950; and elected to the United States House of Representatives
12 in 1952, 1954 and 1956. He was then elected to the United States
13 Senate where he served continuously from January 3, 1959, until his
14 death on June 28, 2010. During that time, Robert C. Byrd was
15 elected to more leadership positions in the United States Senate
16 than any other Senator in the history of our great nation, serving
17 as Majority Whip, Majority Leader, Minority Leader and President
18 Pro Tempore. He served as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee
19 of the United States Senate, directing hundreds of millions of
20 dollars to funding infrastructure, education and economic
21 development in West Virginia; and

22 WHEREAS, Robert C. Byrd cast more votes than any other member
23 of the United States Senate than any other member of the United
24 States Senate, including more than 15,580 roll call votes in his

1 career, with a ninety-seven and nine percent attendance record
2 during his five decades in the United States Senate. On November
3 18, 2009, Robert C. Byrd became the longest-serving member of the
4 United States Congress with fifty-six years, three hundred twenty-
5 one days of continuous and dedicated service, surpassing Senator
6 Carl Hayden of Arizona, who served fifty-six years, three hundred
7 nineteen days. Robert C. Byrd passed away on June 28, 2010, after
8 a long and distinguished career in the United States Congress;
9 therefor, be it

10 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

11 That the Legislature of the State of West Virginia hereby
12 acknowledges the extraordinary and exemplary service of Robert C.
13 Byrd and respectfully requests the Congress of the United States to
14 allow West Virginia to replace a statue of John Edward Kenna with
15 a statue of Robert C. Byrd in the National Statuary Hall to honor
16 and memorialize the life and work of Robert C. Byrd; and, be it

17 *Resolved further,* That Legislature of the State of West
18 Virginia select a commission to implement and oversee the
19 replacement of the statue of John Edward Kenna with a statue of
20 Robert C. Byrd; and, be it

21 *Resolved further,* That the commission shall be responsible of
22 the following:

23 (a) Selecting the sculptor or sculptors,

24 (b) Paying the sculptor or sculptors to carve or cast the

1 statue,

2 (c) Creating a pedestal and desired inscription,

3 (d) Transporting the statue and pedestal to the United States
4 Capitol,

5 (e) Removing and transporting the replaced statue of John
6 Edward Kenna back to the West Virginia State Capitol,

7 (f) Temporarily erecting the new statue of Robert C. Byrd in
8 the Rotunda of the United States Capitol for the unveiling
9 ceremony,

10 (g) Paying the expenses related to the unveiling ceremony and
11 any other expenses that the commission finds necessary to incur in
12 implementing this resolution, and

13 (h) Other actions and costs associated with the replacement of
14 the statue; and, be it

15 *Resolved further,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates is
16 hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to
17 the Architect of the Capitol, the Joint Committee on the Library of
18 Congress, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, each
19 member of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, the Majority
20 Leader of the United States Senate and the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives in the United States Congress.