

2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 25

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of George F. Kennan.

2 Whereas, George Frost Kennan was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on
3 February 16, 1904, and grew up on the east side and died on March 17, 2005, at his
4 home in Princeton, New Jersey, at the age of 101; and

5 Whereas, Mr. Kennan attended St. John's Military Academy in Delafield and
6 Princeton University, where he received a degree in history in 1925; and

7 Whereas, he joined the foreign service in 1926 at age 22 and after State
8 Department study in Washington, became U.S. consul in Berlin in 1931; and

9 Whereas, Mr. Kennan was picked in 1947 by Secretary of State John Marshall
10 to direct the State Department's new policy planning staff; and

11 Whereas, he achieved fame that same year when an article appeared in the
12 quarterly Foreign Affairs magazine outlining the State Department's policy to keep
13 the Soviet Union from spreading its influence; and

14 Whereas, not long after that, Mr. Kennan became America's chief global
15 planner when Secretary Marshall gave him 2 weeks to draft the \$17 billion U.S. aid

1 program, which became known as the Marshall Plan, that rebuilt Europe after World
2 War II; and

3 Whereas, as the author of the Containment Policy on United States–Soviet
4 relations, he fashioned the American response to Soviet expansion that avoided war
5 and safely saw the nation through 4 decades of competition with the Soviet Union
6 fraught with nuclear danger; and

7 Whereas, in 1951, Mr. Kennan was picked by President Harry Truman as
8 ambassador to Moscow; and

9 Whereas, although he left the United States Foreign Service more than 50
10 years ago, he continued to be a leading thinker in international affairs until his
11 death; and

12 Whereas, he spent most of the 2nd half of the century at the Institute for
13 Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, where he wrote many of his 22 books on
14 diplomacy and history; and

15 Whereas, he left his academic pursuits at the request of President John
16 Kennedy to serve as ambassador to Yugoslavia from 1961 to 1963; and

17 Whereas, in 1989, President George H.W. Bush awarded him the Medal of
18 Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor; and

19 Whereas, he spoke at the Pabst Theater at the first Kennan Forum on
20 International Affairs established in his honor in 1990 and received a doctorate of
21 humane letters from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee the same year; and

22 Whereas, he committed his whole adult life to the advancement of reason and
23 human decency and saw many of his ideas prevail as the foreign policy of the United
24 States; and

1 Whereas, Mr. Kennan was well known as a diplomat, philosopher, and
2 historian with 2 Pulitzer Prizes to his credit; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
4 Wisconsin legislature commend the life of George F. Kennan, and his highly
5 acclaimed body of work that earned him the title as the seer who made Milwaukee
6 famous; and, be it further

7 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
8 resolution to Mr. Kennan's wife, Annelise, and their 4 children, Grace Kennan
9 Warnecke, of New York City, Christopher Kennan, of Pine Plains, New York, Joan
10 Kennan, of Washington, D.C., and Wendy Kennan, of Cornwall, England.

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(END)