

CHAPLAIN KAPAUN MEMORIAL

AT THE KANSAS STATEHOUSE



Artist Request for Qualifications

Chaplain Father Emil J. Kapaun Memorial at the Kansas Statehouse

Submission Deadline: July 31, 2024

Project Description:

This spring a bill authorizing a memorial to Emil J. Kapaun, heroic Catholic Priest and Army Chaplain, was passed through the Kansas Legislature with unanimous support and signed into law on March 22, 2024. The law authorizes the erection of a privately funded memorial statue on the grounds of the State Capitol Building in Topeka.

The Chaplain Kapaun Memorial Committee is seeking artists to help design and fabricate a bronze statue to memorialize this great Kansan. The selected artist will collaborate with the committee on the specific artistic elements of the statue, with the goal of honoring Kapaun's military service, his priestly character, and his Kansas farming roots.

Parameters

Size and Medium:

A life-size or larger statue in bronze on a limestone base is desired. (Height of approximately 6 feet or taller. Depending on final determination of location, the width may be constrained to 32 inches wide for both the statue and the base). This current request for qualifications focuses primarily on the bronze statue. The committee will decide after consultation with the selected artist on the best way to proceed with the base.

Themes:

- Kapaun's exemplary military service
- His Catholic priestly vocation
- His Kansas agricultural roots

Envisioned Timeline:

The timeline for the project will be contingent on fundraising efforts and artist's considerations, but we hope to continue moving through the process as quickly as possible.

Application Process:

An online application form may be found at www.kapaunmemorial.com

A physical application form is found at the end of this document. It may be submitted by mail or email.

Mailing address:

Chaplain Kapaun Memorial Committee

424 N Broadway Ave

Wichita, KS 67202

Email: kapaunmemorial@gmail.com

Evaluation of Application:

By this Request for Qualifications, the Chaplain Kapaun Memorial Committee wishes to extend an invitation for artists to express interest and qualifications to design and erect this memorial. Evaluation of artist submissions will be completed by the Kapaun Memorial Committee, listed below. The committee reserves the right to reject or accept applications based on the best interest of the goals of this memorial.

The committee also reserves the right to choose a select number of artists for further discussions or requests for proposals. Final approval of the design and location of the statue is reserved for the Kansas Legislature's Capitol Preservation Committee.

Chaplain Kapaun Memorial Committee:

1. Chair: Senator Chase Blasi, Capitol Preservation Committee
2. Vice-Chair: Michael Kelly, Military Officers Association of America
3. Treasurer: Scott Carter, Father Kapaun Guild
4. Ray Kapaun, Family Representative
5. Bishop Carl Kemme, Diocese of Wichita
6. Lucrecia Nold, Kansas Catholic Conference
7. Gail and Marissa Makovec, Pilsen Community Representatives
8. Mike Grothoff, Knights of Columbus State Deputy
9. Col. John Potter, Command Chaplain, Kansas National Guard
10. US Congressman Jake LaTurner

More on Emil Kapaun

Father Emil Joseph Kapaun was a humble Catholic Priest and courageous Army Chaplain who gave his life serving his troops in the Korean War. A national and religious hero, he was awarded our nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor, by President Barack Obama in 2013.

This farm boy from Pilsen, Kansas was shaped by the soil of the Sunflower State and enabled to bring the light of faith and love to the darkest of places on earth: the battlefields and prison camps of Korea. His sacrificial love led to the giving of his life for his men, but not before his message of hope left an indelible mark on their lives.

An exemplary model of the courageous and persevering spirit of Kansans, this memorial statue will honor Father Kapaun at the heart of our great State, and ensure his legacy lives on for generations to come.

Text of the Bill

SENATE BILL No. 431

AN ACT concerning the state capitol; directing the capitol preservation committee to approve plans for a memorial honoring the life of Emil Joseph Kapaun.

WHEREAS, Emil Joseph Kapaun was born in the farming community of Pilsen, Kansas, in 1916; and

WHEREAS, Emil Joseph Kapaun was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese of Wichita in 1940; and

WHEREAS, Emil Joseph Kapaun served as a chaplain in the United States Army and attained the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun served in the India-Burma Theater of the Pacific campaign in World War II and at the outbreak of the Korean War where he was captured in the Battle of Unsan for refusing to leave the wounded; and

WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun died as a prisoner of war in Pyoktong, North Korea, on May 23, 1951, after giving his life to serve his fellow prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Chaplain Kapaun with the Medal of Honor on April 11, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun is the most highly decorated chaplain in United States Army history receiving the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal and the Republic of Korea Taegeuk Order of Military Merit presented by President Moon Jae-In; and

WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun's life continues to inspire people across the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Work is being undertaken to name Chaplain Kapaun as a saint in the Catholic Church, from whom he has received the designation of Servant of God; and

WHEREAS, Chaplain Kapaun's life embodies the Kansas spirit and exemplifies the state motto "Ad astra per aspera"; and Now, therefore:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The capitol preservation committee shall approve plans to place a permanent memorial honoring the life of Emil Joseph Kapaun pursuant to K.S.A. 75-2269, and amendments thereto.

(b) The secretary of administration is hereby authorized to receive moneys from any grants, gifts, contributions or bequests made for the purpose of financing the creation and construction of the memorial and to expend such moneys received for such purpose. The secretary of administration shall remit all moneys so received to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the Emil Joseph Kapaun memorial fund. No public funds shall be expended for the purpose of financing the creation or construction of the memorial.

(c) There is hereby established in the state treasury the Emil Joseph Kapaun memorial fund. Expenditures from the fund may be made for the purposes of creating and constructing the memorial and for such other purposes as may be specified with regard to any grant, gift, contribution or bequest. All such expenditures shall be made upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of administration or the secretary's designee.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

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Artist Application Form

Submission Deadline: July 31, 2024

Submit to: Chaplain Kapaun Memorial Committee | 424 N Broadway Ave | Wichita, KS 67202

Email: kapaunmemorial@gmail.com | Online form: www.kapaunmemorial.com

Contact Info:

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Estimates & Qualifications:

Please provide based on a life-size (6 ft tall by 32 in wide) bronze statue.

Cost Estimate _____

Project Completion Estimate _____

Portfolio of Work: Please attach documentation with this form or list the URL of an online portfolio:

Any other Notes or Reasons why you are interested in this project: