



Legislation Text

File #: RES 13-851, **Version:** 1

Proclaiming August 27, 2013 to be "Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact Day" in Saint Paul on the 85th anniversary of the signing of the pact.

WHEREAS Frank Billings Kellogg has rightly been honored around the world, including with a Nobel Peace Prize presented to him in 1930; and

WHEREAS Frank Kellogg is honored in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., where his ashes lie, and where the Kellogg window in the Kellogg Bay bears these words: "In grateful memory of Frank Billings Kellogg, LL.D., 1856-1937, Senator of the United States from Minnesota, Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Secretary of State, a Judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice, Joint Author of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, in Fidelity to American Ideals he served his nation with conspicuous ability and sought equity and peace among the nations of the world, his body rests in this cathedral;" and

WHEREAS Frank Kellogg's family moved to Minnesota in 1865 and Kellogg moved to St. Paul in 1886, and Kellogg's home from 1899 to 1937 was the house at 633 Fairmont Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota, which is now a National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS Frank Kellogg's name is remembered in St. Paul as the name of Kellogg Boulevard, but memory of what Kellogg did to merit such honors is fading; and

WHEREAS Frank Kellogg as U.S. Secretary of State heeded the passionate and almost universal desire of the people of this and other nations for peace, and particular the proposal of the Outlawry Movement to legally ban war; and

WHEREAS Frank Kellogg surprised his State Department staff and many others in 1927 by working carefully and diligently to bring many of the world's nations together to ban war; and

WHEREAS war had not previously been a crime, and the Kellogg-Briand Pact made it one, resulting in a nearly complete end to the legal recognition of territorial gains made through war, and resulting in the prosecution following World War II of the new crime of making war; and

WHEREAS the wealthy well-armed nations of the world have not gone to war with each other since those prosecutions -- the elimination of war upon and among the world's poorer nations remaining an important goal toward which greater recognition of the Kellogg-Briand Pact might contribute; and

WHEREAS the Kellogg-Briand Pact is recognized as in force by the U.S. State Department with 81 nations currently parties to it, and the pact open to any other nations that choose to join; and

WHEREAS the Pact, excluding formalities and procedural matters, reads in full, "The High Contracting Parties solemnly [sic] declare in the names of their respective peoples that they condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies, and renounce it, as an instrument of national policy in their relations with one another. The High Contracting Parties agree that settlement or solution of all disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them, shall never be sought except by pacific means;" and

WHEREAS compliance with the law is more likely to occur if we remember what the law is; and

WHEREAS then French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand remarked at the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact on August 27, 1928: "For the first time, on a scale as absolute as it is vast, a treaty has been truly devoted to the very establishment of peace, and has laid down laws that are new and free from all political considerations. Such a treaty means a beginning and not an end. . . . [S]elfish and willful war which has been regarded from of old as springing from divine right, and has remained in international ethics as an attribute of sovereignty, has been at last deprived by law of what constituted its most serious danger, its legitimacy. For the future, branded with illegality, it is by mutual accord truly and regularly outlawed so that a culprit must incur the unconditional condemnation and probably the hostility of all his co-signatories;" NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, in hopes of encouraging awareness of the work of Frank Kellogg and of the peace movement of the 1920s, the City of St. Paul, Minnesota, proclaims August 27, 2013 to be Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact Day.