

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY JANUARY 11



**On January 11, 1893, United States Senator John E. Kenna of West Virginia died in Washington at the age of 44.**

**CSO: SS.8.4, SS.8.14**

**Investigate the Document: (Senator John Edward Kenna Collection, ca. 1865-1890, Ms82-2)**

1. Based on the information found on the correspondence, answer the following:
  - What date was the letter written?
  - The heading of the letter refers to John Kenna as \_\_\_\_\_, which is the proper way to refer to someone who has been elected to a position but has not yet been officially installed. What branch of government does this position serve in?
  - Who wrote the letter to John Kenna?
  
2. John Kenna penned a letter to the author in 1875, pertaining to the death of *whom*?

**Think Critically:** If you were using this document as historical evidence, where do you think you could find out more information about the persons who wrote or received this document? Why do you think this document was written? Write (3) sentences summarizing this document. The author and receiver of this letter have the honor of having communities in West Virginia named after themselves. In which two counties would you find these communities?

Hon John E Hennis (Wildwood)  
Senator elect January 26<sup>th</sup> 1883  
Washington City

My dear Hennis

It would be an unpardonable omission did I the friend & associate of your talented Father in the Convention at the White Sulphur Springs many years ago, and your friends who on your first Campaign for the Ho: of Reps, introduced you to the people of Raleigh, and they have supported you in all your elections ever since

Your Course in Congress as the Representative of our 3<sup>d</sup> District has been watched over by me as one, truly interested in your political career, and your maiden speech, in which you triumphantly defended the Committee of Commerce against the Claims of Committee on Roads & Canals. We trust your progress would be onward, & now

after two Congresses, in which you proved  
yourself a faithful able representative and  
your election to a third Congress by a decisive  
Majority, the Legislature has chosen you to  
succeed the Hon. Henry & Davis in the U. S. Senate

I congratulate you on this honorable pro-  
motion in the political service of your State

One founded upon your own independent  
effort and your proof of able service, &  
without any extraneous influence as may  
have been charged.

Your course as a Senator tho' relatively  
young, will I am sure bear out & justify  
the new honors & distinctions conferred upon  
you. Only add to your (political)  
"faith, virtue," and you will never fall

I have never forgotten your warm  
sympathetic letter of Condolence in 1875  
upon the death of my promising son Stuart

All my family unite with me in our  
congratulations upon your political welfare  
My dear friend, I am with sincere regard  
your aged friend  
Alfred Beckley Sen