In a life dedicated to preserving our physical landscape and conserving and protecting our natural resources, you are an example to us of what one truly talented and committed individual can do to safeguard our environment and cultural heritage for future generations.

A graduate of Harvard University and the University of Virginia Law School, you are regarded as our nation’s most prominent environmental attorney. You currently serve as Clinical Professor of Law at Pace University, Chief Prosecuting Attorney for Riverkeeper, Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, and President of the Waterkeeper Alliance. With your considerable talents, commitment and experience you founded and serve as co-director of the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic – hailed as a model for law clinics across our country.

As architect of the New York City Watershed Agreement, working on behalf of environmentalists and the City’s watershed consumers, you crafted an acclaimed international model for stakeholder consensus negotiations and sustainable development. Your influence extends across the Americas, where you have negotiated treaties protecting indigenous tribes in Canada and Latin America from the loss of their native homelands.

You have written several books on the environment including the New York Times bestseller, Crimes Against Nature, and The Riverkeepers, co-authored with John Cronin. Your articles have appeared in such prominent publications as the Atlantic Monthly, Wall Street Journal, Esquire, Vanity Fair, Rolling Stone, and the Village Voice. Your most recent work titled, St. Francis of Assisi: A Life of Joy, written for a children’s audience, reflects your deep and abiding devotion to St. Francis and the role of faith and spirituality in your life.

Named as one of Time Magazine’s “Heroes for the Planet,” you teach and lead by example. As we sit just hundreds of yards from the majestic Susquehanna River, your passion and energy provide us inspiration to achieve a new future for our River, one that returns the Susquehanna to its pristine past so that we might fulfill our obligation to preserve it for the future.

By the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby confer upon you, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the doctorate of laws, Honoris Causa, with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining.