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**Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library to Offer Free Copies of
Slaughterhouse Five to Students in School Where Book Was Banned**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library announced today that it will offer one free copy of *Slaughterhouse Five* to up to 150 students at a high school in Republic, Missouri. Last week, the school board of Republic voted 4-0 to eliminate *Slaughterhouse Five* and Sarah Ockler's *Twenty Boy Summer* from its curriculum and from the school library as the books were deemed "inappropriate" by the school board, based on a complaint by one parent.

"It's not clear to me whether any of the adults making these important decisions in our public schools have actually read these books," said Julia Whitehead, Executive Director of the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library in Indianapolis. "I find it shocking that the students of Republic, some of whom may be protecting our country through military service in the next year or two, would not be considered by their community to be mature enough to handle the important topics raised by Kurt Vonnegut, an American patriot. Everyone can learn something from this book."

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library has received many suggestions and offers of support for dealing with the book-banning situation. The fledgling nonprofit, which opened in January, 2011, in a gallery space donated by Katz & Korin, P.C., is working with the ACLU in Missouri and Indiana to ensure First Amendment rights for the students at Republic High School. The offer of free books is another gesture from the organization to ensure protection of these rights.

According to Whitehead in regard to the banning, Kurt Vonnegut said it best: "All these people talk so eloquently about getting back to good old-fashioned values... and I say let's get back to the good old-fashioned First Amendment of the good old-fashioned Constitution of the United States — and to hell with the censors! Give me knowledge or give me death!"