

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 295**

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

WHEREAS, Mark Dahir, a beacon of hope and transformation, who, after a distinguished fifteen-year career in commercial banking and courageously facing and overcoming the demons of addiction, passed away at age 48 on August 3, 2023, from heart trouble; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Mark's life was marked by a series of personal crises and a descent into legal troubles culminating in a harrowing seventh driving-under-the-influence incident which served not merely as a wake-up call but as a profound catalyst for soul-searching and monumental change; and

WHEREAS, from the ashes of his previous life, Mark started on an awe-inspiring journey of redemption and service and became a volunteer at the Heart Ministry Center where he eventually ascended to the role of chief executive officer; and

WHEREAS, Mark's visionary leadership led to pioneering accomplishments, including the founding of three successful social enterprises for the Heart Ministry Center: a food pantry that flourished into the state's largest food pantry and distributed over three million pounds of food to approximately one hundred forty-three thousand individuals in the past year, a medical and dental clinic that provided essential care at no cost to over two thousand people in the past year, and a laundromat which generates significant revenue, employs three full-time staff with prior criminal backgrounds, and extended complimentary services to eight hundred fifteen families in need in the past year; and

WHEREAS, Mark's dedication also grew the organization's budget to six million dollars leaving a lasting imprint on the center and all those that benefit from the care provided; and

WHEREAS, Mark's impact is left on those who knew him, individuals he helped, and those he inspired by demonstrating what it truly means to lead by example by transforming his own tribulations into a wellspring of empathy and compassion for those in dire need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature solemnly recognizes and honors the extraordinary life and indelible contributions of Mark Dahir to the Omaha community.

2. That the Legislature celebrates Mark Dahir's remarkable journey from personal despair to becoming a pillar of hope and champion for the underserved.

3. That the Legislature acknowledges with profound gratitude Mark Dahir's unparalleled empathy and effectiveness in transforming the Heart Ministry Center into a haven of hope and progress.

4. That copies of this resolution be sent to the family of Mark Dahir and the Heart Ministry Center.