

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 18

Introduced by Council, 11; Cook, 13.

WHEREAS, Wilda Chue Stephenson was born on December 19, 1922, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Chandler and Willard Chue; and

WHEREAS, Wilda Chue Stephenson followed her family tradition of valuing higher education; and

WHEREAS, Wilda Chue Stephenson earned her bachelor's degree in business education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduated from Creighton University with a master's degree in education, and received an honorary doctorate from Midland Lutheran College; and

WHEREAS, Wilda Chue Stephenson was an activist and an educator who worked to improve race relations and break down barriers in a tumultuous period of Omaha history; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Wilda Chue Stephenson fought discrimination in Nebraska that barred people of color from being student teachers or teaching in public high schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Wilda Chue Stephenson participated in a national Presbyterian summer teaching program in Monrovia, Liberia, and traveled to Shanghai, China, in 1980 to support the rededication of the first Presbyterian church to open after China's ten-year ban on churches; and

WHEREAS, Wilda Chue Stephenson maintained her dedication

to public service and education throughout her life. She served as a board member of the National Council of Negro Women and vice moderator for issues of the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women. A former teacher at Omaha's Central High School, she later served as director of the Goodrich Scholarship Program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and chairwoman of the education committee for the Presbyterian Commission on Church and Race; and

WHEREAS, Wilda Chue Stephenson has been recognized by the University of Nebraska at Omaha's College of Public Affairs and Community Service, the National Black Caucus of the Presbyterian Church, the Urban League of Nebraska, the United Way, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the YWCA; and

WHEREAS, Wilda Chue Stephenson died on October 10, 2009.

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

1. That the Legislature expresses its deep and sincere appreciation of Wilda Chue Stephenson for her dedication and service to the people of Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature extends its condolences to the family of Wilda Chue Stephenson.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Wilda Chue Stephenson as a token of the high regard the people of Nebraska have for her and her achievements.