

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 60**

Introduced by Hadley, 37.

WHEREAS, the NEBRASKALand Foundation on Saturday, February 28, 2015, will present the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award to three honorees at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award will be presented to Gene Haynes, an Omaha educator and community leader, who has been principal of Omaha North Magnet High School for 13 years. Gene led the development of the privately-funded Haddix Center at Omaha North High School which draws students from across Omaha to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Gene has been a teacher, coach, and an administrator in the Omaha Public Schools for 48 years, including 29 years at Omaha North High School, and has received numerous awards for his work in education and the community; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award will be presented to United States Senator Mike Johanns who has brought great recognition to Nebraska through more than 30 years of public service at all levels of government. Mike served as the 28th Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and was then elected to the United States Senate where he served from 2009-2015. Mike's public service began in 1983 as a county commissioner and city councilman before his election as mayor of Lincoln in 1995. He served as Governor of Nebraska from 1999-2005 where he took a strong leadership role in agriculture, economic development, and foreign trade; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award will be presented to Paul Younes of Kearney who has built a hospitality business that has changed the landscape of Kearney and Nebraska. Paul came to York College from Haifa, Israel, on a soccer scholarship and then transferred to Kearney State College. After starting as a dishwasher at a local motel, Paul worked his way up to

become manager, then an owner, and is now president of Younes Hospitality, a family-run business which owns 12 hotels throughout Nebraska. Paul privately financed the Younes Conference Center which hosts regional, statewide, and national events.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the recipients of the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for their service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be given to Gene Haynes, Mike Johanns, and Paul Younes.