

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 368

Introduced by Mello, 5; Cook, 13; Nordquist, 7.

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2015, the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance (SONA) will present awards to six distinguished honorees at the annual South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance awards banquet; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented to Mary Ann Krzemien. Mary Ann is receiving this award for her exceptional dedication and service to the South Omaha community. Mary Ann is a founding member of SONA and is active in numerous community initiatives critical to creating a stronger South Omaha. Mary Ann has provided organizational and administrative leadership in SONA and also volunteers her time in animal rescue efforts, the South Omaha Environmental Task Force, traffic safety, and the Dorothy Patach Natural Environmental Area; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Project of the Year Award will be presented to the Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols which operates in over 30 neighborhoods in Omaha to increase public safety and reduce crime. Coalition volunteers also collaborate with local law enforcement during special events, have been called on to assist in criminal investigations, and provide a rapid response team to assist in the search for missing persons; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Student Volunteer Award will be presented to Jenny Le, a student at Bryan High School in Omaha. Jenny is a member of Latino Leaders where she has volunteered her time in fundraising as well as providing babysitting services during parent-teacher conferences and Latino Night parent meetings. Jenny is a member of Future Farmers of America (FFA) through Bryan High School's Urban Agriculture and Natural Resources Career Academy, receiving a red ribbon in the state FFA competition; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Student Volunteer Award will be presented to Rukiya

Mohamed, a student at Bryan High School in Omaha. Rukiya is a member of Careers for Kids, the Urban League, Safe, Secure, and Disciplined Schools, and the Thrive Club which welcomes refugees and helps them acculturate to Bryan High School and of which Rukiya was elected secretary and public relations chair. Rukiya also volunteers her time at the Open Door Mission and local nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Student Volunteer Award will be presented to Maria Cubilla-Briceno, who is a student at Omaha South High School. Maria is a member of the National Honor Society, student council, Future Business Leaders of America, Senior Class Cabinet, and Character In Action where she has served as a mentor to younger students. Maria has volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and with the Salvation Army as a bell ringer. Maria maintained a 4.3 grade point average while being involved with these numerous academic and volunteer activities; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Student Volunteer Award will be presented to Jacqueline Lopez-Ortiz, a student at Omaha South High School. Jacqueline is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as a mentor to younger students. Jacqueline helped raise funds for the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, and other charities, as well as volunteering at Lydia House and local pediatric hospitals. Jacqueline maintained a 4.1 grade point average while being involved with these numerous academic and volunteer activities as well as being a full-time mother.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the award recipients of the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance awards banquet and extends its appreciation for their continued service to their local communities and to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be given to Mary Ann Krzemien, the Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols, Jenny Le, Rukiya Mohamed, Maria Cubilla-Briceno, and Jacqueline Lopez-Ortiz.