

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 313**

Introduced by Lowe, 37.

WHEREAS, Allen H. "Al" Zikmund was born on March 26, 1922, on a homestead farm near Ord to Henry and Ethel Zikmund; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, Al graduated from Ord High School, where he was a vocal and instrumental musician, a member of the undefeated football team, a member of the track team, and a broad jump state champion; and

WHEREAS, while playing halfback for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker football team in the 1941 Rose Bowl, Al became the youngest player in Rose Bowl history to catch a touchdown pass. Al also participated on the track team, was a member of the Innocents Society and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and earned an education degree at the university; and

WHEREAS, Al served as a U.S. naval lieutenant, commanding regiments of officer candidates before returning to the University of Nebraska to earn a master's degree; and

WHEREAS, Al married Verlene Witham in 1943 and raised three children, Sue, Jim, and Sally; and

WHEREAS, after teaching and coaching at Alliance and Grand Island high schools, Al and Verlene moved their family to Kearney, where he served as the Kearney State College football coach, assistant track coach, athletic director, and associate professor of physical education; and

WHEREAS, during his seventeen years coaching the Kearney State football team, Coach Zikmund turned the team into a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) powerhouse, winning seventy-nine percent of their games and going undefeated in 1956, 1958, and 1967; and

WHEREAS, Al is a member of the University of Nebraska at Kearney Hall of Fame, the NAIA Hall of Fame, the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame, and the

Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame and has been nominated to the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame for his service as an innovative coach and athletic director; and

WHEREAS, Allen Zikmund passed away on Monday, January 29, 2018, at the age of ninety-five.

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

1. That the Legislature offers its condolences to the family and friends of Allen Zikmund.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Allen Zikmund.