

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 320**

Introduced by Scheer, 19.

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the NEBRASKAland Foundation will present the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award, recognizing Nebraskans who have distinguished themselves and the state, to Jim and Susanne Blue at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Jim was hired to serve as president of Youth Services System. It merged with Cedars Home for Children in 1996, at which time he became president and chief executive officer of Cedars Home for Children and proceeded to take it to new levels of service and outreach. Cedars Home for Children provides out-of-home services to children and youth who have nowhere else to stay, along with other out-of-home services, prevention planning, and juvenile justice work; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Matt Talbot and Outreach board of directors took a leap of faith and hired Susanne Blue as its first executive director, the position she still holds. She accepted the immense challenge of expanding services beyond meeting the basic nutritional needs of families in need. Expanding from just hunger relief, Matt Talbot Kitchen services now include housing, case management, substance abuse counseling, and nutrition programming; and

WHEREAS, Jim received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Susanne was honored in New York City by the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness (ICPH) where she received the 2020 Beyond Housing Award for her tireless leadership in reducing the impact of homelessness on children and families; and

WHEREAS, Jim directs over 200 employees at Cedars Home for Children

providing services to thousands of children and youth. Governor Pete Ricketts has twice appointed Jim to the Nebraska Children's Commission, and he now serves on its executive committee; and

WHEREAS, Susanne has led Matt Talbot Kitchen for 21 years developing many programs designed to comprehensively address the needs of those in need. Matt Talbot Kitchen has served over 2.3 million meals to homeless and near homeless since its founding in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Susanne have dedicated their lives and talents to serving others in the Lincoln community. They are wonderful examples of servant leaders who have made tremendous differences in the lives of many youth and adults in Southeast Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Susanne have been married 34 years and have two adult children and a feisty Papillon pug.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Jim and Susanne Blue as 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 sent to Jim Blue and Susanne Blue.