

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 321

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 Keith and Doris Olsen at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Keith and Doris Olsen have farmed since they were married in 1969 and assumed management of the family's Perkins County farm purchased in 1917. Their love of Nebraska and agriculture has led them to become leaders in no-till, dryland farming and supporting the growth of agriculture in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Keith Olsen was born in Imperial in 1944 and raised on the family farm near Venango in the southwest corner of Perkins County. Keith's grandfather bought the original land in 1917, and the farm was recognized by Aksarben as a Centennial Farm in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Keith and Doris met on a blind date when Keith was attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Doris was a student at Immanuel School of Nursing in Omaha. After their marriage in 1969, Doris joined Keith on the Olsen farm where Keith had begun farming in 1967 with his father. Keith and Doris assumed management and operation of the Olsen farm after his father passed away in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Keith, Doris, and their son Jeff, operate a no-till, dryland farm raising wheat, dry peas, and corn. In 2013, the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association recognized them for producing certified seed for 30 years. Using the latest no-till technology has helped them increase the productivity of the farm; and

WHEREAS, Keith served as the president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation from August 2002 to December 2011. He traveled extensively on

international trade missions with Nebraska Governors and the American Farm Bureau Federation meeting with foreign officials and farmers to promote opening new markets for Nebraska agricultural products. He also sustains close relationships with city and civic leaders in Lincoln, Omaha, and other communities in Nebraska, to help them understand issues facing rural Nebraska and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Keith and Doris use their shared passion for agriculture by being involved with Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and the Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom program. A favorite activity is serving as "Ag in the Classroom" pen pals to kindergarten classes in Lincoln. Each year they visit their class to interact with the young students; and

WHEREAS, Keith and Doris support the Nebraska State Fair and the University of Nebraska, especially the Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, and have served on department advisory boards and various search committees; and

WHEREAS, Keith and Doris have three sons and eight grandchildren.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Keith and Doris Olsen 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 Keith and Doris Olsen.