

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 494

Introduced by Storer, 43.

WHEREAS, the 2026 Nebraska Library Association's Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Chris Bitner of Valentine, Nebraska, on March 16, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Chris was nominated for her service as President of the Friends of the Valentine Public Library by Valentine Public Library Director Carrie Graham; and

WHEREAS, Chris formed the Friends organization in 2007 and has generated funding beyond the library's budget for many of Valentine Public Library's projects while working full-time at the Cherry County Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Chris generated funding and volunteer support for the library's renovation in 2010, a remodel of the meeting room kitchen, landscaping projects, and an alternative for more storage; and

WHEREAS, Chris, with the help of Friends, has also helped sponsor the library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, which gifts a free book to every baby born at the local hospital, and has also helped bring a Little Free Library to the Valentine community, which has expanded access to books; and

WHEREAS, Chris also acts as a host at the library's annual Friends of the Library Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament and has helped launch the library's first wine tasting collaboration event and the youth events "Stuffed Animal Sleepover" and "Elephant and Piggy Party"; and

WHEREAS, Chris's ability to volunteer hours of her time while working a full-time position reflects her dedication to help foster a lifelong love of reading in the Valentine community.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Chris Bitner for being awarded the 2026 Nebraska Library Association's Outstanding Volunteer Award.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Chris Bitner.