

merged with GTE Sprint, became known as U.S. Sprint and was a very definite leader in the telecommunications industry in our state. And, finally, the NEBRASKALander Award goes to Donald Keough. He's a native...not a native Nebraskan but spent a considerable amount of his formative years here in Nebraska, was the CEO of Coca-Cola Company and was a national leader in the food products business. The Legislature typically joins in by passing resolutions honoring these individuals, and these awards will be presented at the state...Statehood Day dinner that will take place later on in this month. So, with that, I would urge your support of these resolutions.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Withem. To speak to one or more of these resolutions, Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Coordsen and members. I am going to...all of these awards, I think, are fitting. I think it's wonderful that they do this each year, but I want to speak particularly to the one to the Abel family. The George Abel family are long-time people in Nebraska and in Lincoln. And I knew...I didn't happen to know the father, who originated the business, but I did know Hazel Abel, a wonderful woman who worked very hard at keeping her family and the business together. Then the children came along and still have the business going here in Lincoln now. Senator Abel, she was a United States Senator, was one of those women that each one of us, man or woman, could use as a role model. From this point of view that I liked about her is that she put her energy and time into keeping her family and her business going, but it was a family business. And so I think she was so devoted to her family. Along with that, the Abel family, with Hazel Abel leading the way, was dedicated to the state of Nebraska and to the community of Lincoln. They did a lot of things. And one of the most recent things, in the last five or six years, many of you who live here in Lincoln enjoy Hazel Abel Park, which her daughter, Alice, who's a good friend of mine, took the land that was there and turned it into this oasis in the near south part of Lincoln, not far from the Capitol, you could walk to it. So, Senator Abel, for me, I just...I had met her several times. She and her daughter came to a Young Republican meeting in Hastings once, when I was still a young Republican. They gave us a donation. We almost fainted, nobody had ever given us a donation. She was just a very generous woman, wanted to encourage us to keep working in the political field to try to do