

April 10, 1996

LR 21  
LR 395, 461-465, 467

the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pirsch, excuse me, Mr. Clerk, LR 464.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Legislative Resolution 464 was offered by Senator Pirsch. It is found on page 1790 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. LR 464 represents the fifteenth annual commemoration of Crime Victims' Rights Week, observed nationwide and in Nebraska from April 21st to 27th this year. During this special week, victim advocates and crime victims will join together to educate citizens about victims' rights and services, about crime prevention and related activities like citizen patrols that make our communities better places to live. The resolution talks about the foundation of justice for all upon which our nation was built, which includes justice for crime victims and there are nearly 73,000 Nebraskans who are touched by crime each year, with over 6,000 falling prey to violence. The theme for this year is victim justice, a new day dawns, which describes the positive outlook held by victims' rights advocates in Nebraska and across the country. I introduced in 1980, when I first came to the Legislature, a Forgotten Victims Week, and things have come along and become much better over this last decade and a half. Today there are federal laws and state constitutional and statutory protection for crime victims' rights. Every state, including Nebraska, has a victim compensation program to help ease the financial burden imposed by criminal offenders upon crime victims. The theme this year is especially pertinent to our state, since that new day is dawning, is dawning in our state when this May primary voters will have the opportunity to vote on LR 21CA--the victim rights constitutional amendment protecting Nebraska crime victims' rights to be informed of all court proceedings, to be present at court proceedings, and to provide their input at sentencing, parole, pardon, commutation, and conditional release proceedings. Thanks to all of you in this body who supported LR 21CA, and a special thank you to the victim advocates in Nebraska, all across Nebraska, who have worked tirelessly to assist and ease the pain of crime victims.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. LR 467. LR 465, excuse me, 465.