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FLOOR DEBATE

March 12, 2003 LB 332

you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, on adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Back to the discussion of the bill, itself, to advance to E & R Initial. Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in support of this bill. Volunteerism is very important to the fabric of what Nebraska is and what makes us the good life. I am an EMTV myself. I serve on a plan emergency organization that responds to accidents right away, and I know how important volunteerism is to the success of these emergency programs. Volunteerism, as a whole, is on the decline, not only in Nebraska, but across the United States. And everything that we can do to help people and encourage them and show them appreciation for their volunteerism, we need to support it. And, oftentimes, emergency medical technicians, people that respond to accidents and volunteer systems of any kind that are operating in our state, that sometimes is a very thankless job. We have these people getting woken up from sleep at three in the morning, and they've got to be on the job at seven, and they still come out and respond to an accident or an emergency and take care of their fellow community members that are sick or injured. And they do it because they love to do it because they love the people that they are working for. I think that this is the least we can do to recognize their efforts, and I would ask everyone on the floor to support this bill and join us in the committee in recognizing the efforts of our volunteers. I return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Combs Senator Janssen,
on advancement of LB 332.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and members of the body. Yes, this is for EMTs and firemen, all emergency responders. I am certain that the bill says that. I, for a long time, have been a champion and championed the rights of all volunteers in this state. And, Senator Combs, you're right on line. This country would not be what it is without the