

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 994

was unanimously voted, which is highlighted on the back of that first page, their desire to name the new veterans' home the Bellevue Veterans' Home. They are certainly open to naming it the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home, but I wanted to let you see that this is something supported by all of the veterans' organizations in the state. There are individual veterans who may not agree with that. Some of those veterans' groups have also voted individually, to ensure that the name, Thomas Fitzgerald, remains somewhere, and I highlighted in the handout some information that was in a World-Herald article where that was stressed, that they would like to see the Thomas Fitzgerald name somewhere on the home, and I certainly concur with that. That is something that I will continue to work on and that certainly can be done, in the name of continuing to honor former State Senator Thomas Fitzgerald. And I would say that this in no way, neither me nor the veterans' groups who endorse this naming nor the Government Committee, has intentionally or even indirectly sought to dishonor, discredit, or in any way do anything negative to Thomas Fitzgerald, to his family, or to his service to the country and to our state. He was an honorable man, and you cannot dishonor an honorable man. So this has really very little to do with him. He was fortunate that for 25 years he was recognized while he was alive, while he was able to see and be a part of the home, and I'm happy for him. I mean only for good things to happen to him, as I do to everyone. I also want to thank his children, Linda, Tom, and Gayle. They have certainly been very loving and compassionate in wanting to honor him, in wanting to have his name on the new home. I respect that; I respect them. I appreciate their efforts in what they have done. Any father would be honored to have children so devoted, so loving, so concerned for his welfare and for his name. I appreciate them and I appreciate him. I recognize that they have come to the Legislature, as they certainly have a right to do, in championing the cause of having the new home named again in honor of their father. That is not the desire of all of the veteran service organizations, as you see from the memo, but I think in the spirit of compromise, we will be able to name a portion of the facility after him, so that his name will be there, and we also recognize what's in current practice, and that's calling it the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home, as it has been, as we've worked through this