

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 43

Introduced by Arch, 14.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2023, the NEBRASKAland Foundation will present the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award, recognizing Nebraskans who have distinguished themselves and the state, to former Nebraska State Senator John Stinner at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Senator Stinner was recruited by then Coach Bob Devaney to come from his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to accept a football scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, playing on the 1970 and 1971 Husker National Championship teams, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and later a Master of Arts Degree in Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and became a certified public accountant employed by Peat Marwick and Mitchell which is now KPMG; and

WHEREAS, Senator Stinner transitioned from public accounting to a distinguished banking career, initially working with First Commerce Group of Lincoln, a bank holding company, and then running troubled banks during the agricultural crisis of 1981 to 1985, culminating in fulfilling his lifelong ambition of bank ownership in 1988 when he organized a group of investors to establish Gering State Bank, which later became known as Valley Bank and Trust and then Western States Bank until its merger with First National Bank of Omaha; and

WHEREAS, during Senator Stinner's tenure, the bank received numerous awards from the Small Business Administration for business development and supporting women and minority business owners, including being named One of the 100 Most Business-Friendly Banks in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Senator Stinner worked tirelessly on behalf of his community and

state, serving as a member of the Gering School Board for ten years and on twenty-two other boards and numerous associations throughout his career, and was selected as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Bankers Association in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Senator Stinner was elected to the Legislature in 2014, representing District 48 in Western Nebraska for two terms and served as Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature for six of his eight years in the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Senator Stinner served District 48 with distinction, successfully leading and advocating for passage of numerous initiatives to overcome challenges facing Nebraska, including solving the state's budget deficit when he first took office, addressing the University of Nebraska's longstanding deferred maintenance issues, enacting land bank legislation to assist communities with dilapidated buildings, as well as increasing needed funding for early childhood development, mental health services, nursing home reimbursements, provider rates, the arts, and many other critically important programs serving Nebraskans.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates former Nebraska State Senator John Stinner as a recipient of the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for his service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to former Nebraska State Senator John Stinner.