

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 446

Introduced by Brewer, 43.

WHEREAS, the National Society of Pershing Rifles is a military-oriented honor society for college students founded in 1894 as a drill team at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is the oldest continuously operating college organization dedicated to military drill; and

WHEREAS, originally named the Varsity Rifles, members renamed the organization in 1895 in honor of their founder, Lieutenant John J. Pershing, who was the Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Nebraska, and who later became General of the Armies and the highest-ranking military officer in United States history; and

WHEREAS, the Pershing Rifles became a national organization in 1928, with companies consisting of drill teams and tactical units at colleges and universities across the United States, and recently held their annual national convention and John J. Pershing Memorial Drill Competition in Knoxville, Tennessee, on March 13-17, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the members of Pershing Rifles have served in all branches of the armed forces of the United States, in every conflict since the Spanish-American War, with some members making the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, among distinguished alumni are general officers, Medal of Honor recipients, and accomplished leaders in the military, industry, the arts, and in both state and national government, including General Curtis LeMay, former head of the Strategic Air Command and Air Force Chief of Staff, General Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and United States Secretary of State, and former Nebraska Governor George Sheldon who was a founding member; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Pershing Rifles is to aid in the development of successful officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps throughout each Reserve Officers' Training Corps program, to further the purpose and traditions of the armed forces of the United States, and to give college students an opportunity to be part of a military organization with or without service in the military; and

WHEREAS, the National Society of Pershing Rifles will celebrate the 130th anniversary of the organization's founding on October 2, 2024.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the National Society of Pershing Rifles on the 130th anniversary of the organization's founding.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the national commander of Pershing Rifles, P/R Major General Logan Bowland at Appalachian State University, and to the commander of Pershing Rifles Company A-2, P/R Captain John Lindsay at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.