

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 42

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 Rita Stinner at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Rita dedicated her professional endeavors to improving the quality of life for the residents of Nebraska, to the arts, and to music education after earning both Bachelor of Music in Education and Master of Music degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, Rita was a Director of Choral Music for Lincoln Public Schools for seventeen years before moving to western Nebraska and becoming the Director of Choral Activities and Music Program Director at Western Nebraska Community College in 1997, for which she received many awards, including the Award for Teaching Excellence from Phi Theta Kappa, the Governor's Award for Excellence in Arts Education from the Nebraska Arts Council, and induction into the Nebraska Music Educators Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Rita's many accomplishments include reorganizing The Valley Voices Community Chorus in 1990 and founding The Valley Eight, both of which performed live on Nebraska Public Radio's Big Band Spotlight, NPR Friday Live, Oregon Trail Days, the Willow Tree Festival, and the Valley Voices at Carnegie Hall, and expanding the Western Nebraska Community College choral program, which performed at two Nebraska Governor's Inaugurations, on NPR Live from the Mill, and semiannually at Carnegie Hall; and

WHEREAS, Rita's many accomplishments culminated while celebrating her retirement in an extraordinary opportunity to perform in the opera Medea in a month-long engagement with Western Nebraska Community College students in the

Festival of the Aegean on the island of Syros, Greece; and

WHEREAS, Rita is currently President of the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and serves on the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts Advisory Board and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Friends of Opera, she also previously served with distinction as the North Central Chairperson of the American Choral Directors for Repertoire and Standards in Two Year College Choirs, and served on the boards of both the Nebraska Music Educators and Nebraska Choral Directors; and

WHEREAS, Rita was honored as the Scottsbluff Star-Herald Citizen of the Year and was the recipient of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Outstanding Philanthropist Award, and accepted the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce Trailblazer Award for her exceptional work related to economic development, tourism, public relations, marketing, and philanthropy, while continuing a solo singing career.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Rita Stinner as a recipient of the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for her service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Rita Stinner.