

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 437**

Introduced by Hadley, 37.

WHEREAS, the NEBRASKALand Foundation on Saturday, February 27, 2016, will present the Distinguished NEBRASKALander Award to the honorees at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKALander Award will be presented to Keith and Norma Heuermann from Phillips who have been leaders in the agricultural community for decades. As a college student, Keith convinced his father to send him \$12 to plant two acres of seed corn production, then built a multimillion dollar business which pioneered hybrid seed corn development, as well as sorghum, wheat, and soybean hybrids. After selling his original business to Stauffer Chemical (now Syngenta) in 1978, Keith developed hybrid popping corn. BKH popcorn was marketed locally and nationally for 11 years and some new hybrids were marketed internationally. Keith and Norma created a family foundation to return benefits to farmers and rural communities and have established the Heuermann Lecture series at the University of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKALander Award will be presented to Jim and Rhonda Seacrest who have been community and philanthropic leaders in Lincoln, North Platte, and elsewhere across Nebraska. Jim served as president and chairperson of the board of Western Publishing Company in North Platte from 1968 to 2000. In addition to holding leadership positions on dozens of nonprofit boards, Jim and Rhonda have chaired several major fundraising campaigns, raising millions of dollars for the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET), the Great Plains Medical Center, and other organizations. Their love of the arts, humanities, and education has benefited many of the state's cultural institutions and created a lasting impact for future generations; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award will be presented to Bill and Evonne Williams from Omaha who are founders of Patriotic Productions which honors United States military veterans and their families. Bill and Evonne have organized honor flights taking more than 2,000 World War II and Korean War veterans from Nebraska and western Iowa to the monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C. In 2010, Bill and Evonne created "Remembering Our Fallen," a traveling exhibit with photos of Nebraska's military personnel who have died in the War on Terror since September 11, 2001. The exhibit is still traveling the state and Bill and Evonne are working with other states on similar projects. In November of 2015, they organized the Nebraska Gold Star Kids Honor Flight for the children and spouses of Nebraska's fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the recipients of the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for their service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be given to Keith and Norma Heuermann, Jim and Rhonda Seacrest, and Bill and Evonne Williams.