

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 288

Introduced by Albrecht, 17.

WHEREAS, James "Louis" LaRose, also known as Xatap Horaje ga or "Travels in Bush," was a member and advocate for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and the Bear Clan; and

WHEREAS, Louis was born in Winnebago, Nebraska, on January 25, 1942, graduated from Winnebago High School in 1960, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from Bethel College in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Louis was elected to the Winnebago Tribal Council at age 26 and became Tribal Chairman at age 28; and

WHEREAS, with Louis' help, the Tribe successfully challenged the seizure of land from the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska and Iowa by the Army Corps of Engineers for a proposed recreation project in a case that ultimately went to the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Louis worked on the federal Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023 to return the seized land to the Tribe and worked on bills in the Legislature related to the repatriation of Native remains and burial goods and the retroceding of state Public Law 280 jurisdiction over the Winnebago Reservation; and

WHEREAS, Louis established the Tribal Bison Program and served as Chairman of the Intertribal Bison Cooperative, now known as the Intertribal Buffalo Council; and

WHEREAS, Louis assisted with the establishment of and served as president of the Nebraska Indian Community College, now known as Little Priest Tribal College, on the Winnebago and Omaha reservations; and

WHEREAS, Louis was a founding member and served as Vice-Chairman of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, which advocates for tribal

colleges; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Louis received the Chief Standing Bear Humanitarian Award from the Commission on Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, when he was not working to reclaim tribal land, bring back bison to the reservation, or advance educational opportunities, Louis spent his time with his family, attended his children and grandchildren's games and events, hunted, grilled, gardened, read, watched the news and sports, solved crossword puzzles, and did presentations on the bison; and

WHEREAS, Louis passed away on November 7, 2023, and will be sorely missed by his family and friends, the Winnebago Tribe, and all those he helped with his advocacy.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes the advocacy and dedication of Louis LaRose to his tribe and community.
2. That the Legislature offers its condolences to Louis LaRose's family and friends and the Winnebago Tribe.
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Louis LaRose and the Winnebago Tribe.