

## ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 28**

Introduced by Council, 11; Adams, 24; Avery, 28; Campbell, 25; Coash, 27;  
Conrad, 46; Cook, 13; Cornett, 45; Fulton, 29; Haar, 21;  
McGill, 26; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; Wallman, 30.

WHEREAS, Lela Nuna (Knox) Shanks was born September 16, 1927, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to William Medford and Lila (Griggs) Knox; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks grew up in the all Black community of Green Pastures, Oklahoma, where a big part of her life was attending and working in the True Vine Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks began writing poetry and slogans in elementary school; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks' parents, recognizing her creative gift, gave her a hand printing press from which Lela published a one-page newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks joined the previously all-male publication staff of her high school newspaper as an editorial writer; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks graduated from Douglas High School in Oklahoma City in 1945 as its valedictorian; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks graduated magna cum laude from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1949, with a degree in journalism and later worked at the St. Louis News, the St. Louis Argus, and the Chicago Defender; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks and her husband, the late Hughes Shanks, moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1965, where they campaigned for better and more

pluralistic education in the Lincoln Public Schools, shaped national educational policy, and fostered the birth of multiculturalism in the schools; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks was known and admired locally and nationally as an activist, humanitarian, scholar, speaker, feminist, and author; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks devoted her life to making Nebraska and the world a fair, peaceful, and verdant place; and

WHEREAS, Lela Shanks died on October 24, 2011.

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

1. That the Legislature expresses its deep and sincere appreciation of Lela Nuna (Knox) Shanks for her dedication and service to the people of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Lela Nuna (Knox) Shanks as a token of the high regard the people of Nebraska have for her and her achievements with our heartfelt condolences.