

March 5, 1984

LR 267

SENATOR CLARK: Thank you Senator Kilgarin. That was very interesting. We will now take up Senator Eret's resolution.

CLERK: Mr. President, Legislative Resolution 267 offered by Senator Eret found on page 1053 of the Journal. (Read resolution.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Eret.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. President and members, this resolution honors the National Society of Pershing Rifles in recognition of its 90th anniversary this year. Pershing Rifles is a national student honor society made up of Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC cadets and other students, male and female all alike. This group was founded by General John J. Pershing when he was stationed at the University of Nebraska as a professor of military science and tactics from 1891 to 1895. General Pershing is enshrined in our Nebraska Hall of Fame. What started his one drill team of Army ROTC cadets 90 years ago has over time spread to all three branches of the service. This organization, which was unique to the University of Nebraska for the first 30 years after its founding has spread to over 100 colleges and university campuses across the country from Los Angeles to New York in 35 states and Puerto Rico. What began as one company of cadets at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln has at its height claimed nearly 10,000 members and today possesses an alumnae of over 80,000 former Pershing riflemen in the armed services in civilian population. One former Pershing rifleman was George Sheldon who was Governor of Nebraska from 1907 to 1909. Though the Pershing Rifles initially began as a drill team, today in addition to drill they provide training for cadets in the areas of tactics, marksmanship, orienting, and staff administration. Pershing Rifles prepares young cadets for future military and civilian leadership. The Pershing Rifles also provide some community services and serve as the Governor's Honor Guard. They were present at the cornerstone laying ceremony for this Capitol Building in 1922 and on a more recent note, you may have noticed them at Nebraska home football games where they provide the color