

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 14, 2010

[LB420 LB507A LB507 LB510A LB510 LB563 LB563A LB701 LB771 LB779A LB779
LB780 LB800 LB800A LB861 LB862 LB918 LB918A LB931 LB987 LB987A LB999
LB1002 LB1002A LB1014 LB1020 LB1071 LB1072 LR548 LR549 LR550 LR551 LR552
LR553 LR554 LR555 LR557 LR558 LR559 LR560 LR561 LR562 LR563 LR564 LR565
LR567 LR568 LR569 LR570]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY PRESIDING []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the sixtieth day of the One Hundred First Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for this afternoon is Senator Stuthman. Would you all please rise? []

SENATOR STUTHMAN: (Prayer offered.) []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. I now call to order the sixtieth day of the One Hundred First Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Please record, Mr. Clerk. []

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Are there corrections for the Journal? []

CLERK: I have no corrections. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Messages, reports, or announcements? []

CLERK: Communications from the Governor. (Read re LB507, LB507A, LB563, LB563A, LB701, LB771, LB779, LB779A, LB800, and LB800A.) A second communication. (Read re LB510, LB510A, LB918, and LB918A.) A third communication. (Read re LB861, LB862, LB931, LB987, LB987A, LB1002, LB1002A, LB1014, LB1071, LB1072, LB999, and LB1020.) A fourth message. (Read re LB780.) Mr. President, a communication going to Secretary Gale from the Clerk regarding the transmittal of LB420 vetoed earlier this week. I have communications from the Executive Board regarding appointments to the LB1109 committee and LB1057 committee. I have a Reference report referring LR568 and, finally, reports received in the Clerk's Office, available for member review, from the Health and Human Services Department and the Investment Council and the final lobby report of the session to be inserted in the Journal. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1461-1465.) [LB507 LB507A LB563 LB563A LB701 LB771 LB779 LB779A LB800 LB800A LB510 LB510A LB918 LB918A LB861 LB862 LB931 LB987 LB987A LB1002 LB1002A LB1014 LB1071 LB1072 LB999 LB1020 LB780 LB420 LR568]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR548, LR549, LR550, LR551, LR552, and LR553. (Doctor of the day and visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk, we will now move to the next item under motions to override gubernatorial vetoes. [LR548 LR549 LR550 LR551 LR552 LR553]

CLERK: I have no motions, Mr. President. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now proceed to items under legislative resolutions. []

CLERK: Mr. President, LR554, Senator Pirsch, found on page 1356 of the Journal. [LR554]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Pirsch, you're recognized to open on LR554. [LR554]

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Millard North High School earned a number of awards at the String Olympics festival held at the University of Nebraska at Omaha March 27, 2010. This legislative resolution is to congratulate Millard North High School orchestra, which was named the most outstanding in Division III for high schools, the individual medalists, and Mrs. Debbie Martinez, for their accomplishment at the String Olympics festival. Thank you. [LR554]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Mr. Clerk, we will now proceed to LR555. [LR555]

CLERK: LR555 offered by Senator Krist, found on page 1377 of the Journal. [LR555]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Krist, you're recognized to open on LR555. [LR555]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LR555 extends this Legislature's and this great state's appreciation to former three-term Omaha City Councilman Chuck Sigerson for his years of public service. For those of you who have not followed the story, Chuck suffered a stroke and heart attack last year and, while great strides in his recovery have been made, in February, Chuck, after consulting with his wife Liz and family members, announced he would resign from the Omaha City Council effective March 1. Chuck served as my councilman and he will be missed. I ask the adoption of LR555 and thank the body for their support on this matter. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR555]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Krist. You've heard the opening to LR555. We'll now proceed to LR557. [LR555 LR557]

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CLERK: LR557 is a resolution by Senator Avery, found on page 1377 of the Journal. [LR557]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Avery, you're recognized to open on LR557. [LR557]

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. President. This resolution extends congratulations to Marshall Ozaki for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Marshall is a fine example of the proudest traditions of Eagle Scouting and I am proud to sponsor this resolution. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR557]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Avery. You've heard the opening to LR557. Next resolution, Mr. Clerk. [LR557]

CLERK: LR558 is a resolution by Senator Fulton, found on page 1385 of the Journal. [LR558]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Fulton, you're recognized to open on LR558. [LR558]

SENATOR FULTON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This resolution extends sympathies to the family of Mike Sucha. He was a parishioner of Cathedral Parish in my district. He was a constituent of Senator Campbell and he is from Norfolk, attended Norfolk Catholic. He was a young father who passed too early. He was a good man. This was brought to me by a friend of his and I brought it forward as an appropriate gesture on the part of the Legislature to a fine man who we have lost. I request the body's approval. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR558]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Fulton. You've heard the opening on LR558. We'll now proceed to LR559. [LR558 LR559]

CLERK: LR559 is by Senator Gay. It is found on page 1416 of the Journal. [LR559]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Gay, you're recognized to open on LR559. [LR559]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to congratulate Nicholas Wilson. He's a young man from St. Columbkille School who was given the honor to participate in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., for a week and take this opportunity to extend our congratulations on this prestigious award. They got to go to Washington, D.C., and hone their leadership skills and learn about our government. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR559]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Gay. You've heard the opening to LR559. We'll now proceed to LR560. [LR559 LR560]

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CLERK: LR560 is by Senator Gay, found on page 1417 of the Journal. [LR560]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Gay, you're recognized to open on LR560. [LR560]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you, Mr. President. Also to congratulate Keith Jarrett, who was also chosen at St. Columbkille School to attend and participate in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference. [LR560]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Gay. You've heard the opening of LR560. We will now proceed to LR561. [LR560 LR561]

CLERK: LR561 is by Senator Gay, found on page 1417 of the Journal. [LR561]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Gay, you're recognized to open on LR561. [LR561]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to congratulate Kathryn Gay for being also given the honor to participate in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference and actually she is quite a leader and my daughter, so I'm very proud of her that she was chosen and got to grow up for a week in Washington, D.C. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR561]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Gay. You've heard the opening on LR561. We'll now proceed to LR562. [LR561 LR562]

CLERK: LR562 is by Senator Howard and the resolution is found on page 1418 of the Journal. [LR562]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Howard, you're recognized to open on LR562. [LR562]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LR562 recognizes November 20, 2010, as Adoption Day in Nebraska. At any given time in Nebraska there are 100-plus foster children waiting to be adopted. Nebraska was one of the first states to celebrate adoption day. Since 2000, courts, judges, attorneys, and adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, and advocates in our state have used adoption day as a time to secure permanent homes for foster care children. The benefits of permanency for children are obvious and immeasurable. Every child deserves a loving family. LR562 officially recognizes this date so that we can continue to give Nebraska's children the best future possible. Thank you. [LR562]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Howard. You've heard the opening to LR562. We'll now proceed to LR563. [LR563]

CLERK: LR563 is by Senator Howard, found on page 1418 of the Journal. [LR563]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Howard, you're recognized to open on LR563. [LR563]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LR563 would designate the week of October 3 Nebraska School Bullying Awareness Week. As many of you know, I'm committed to the idea that no children, no child should ever be bullied. Bullying is the most common form of youth violence. An estimated 3.6 million children are bullied annually, and this may be a conservative number. Bullying awareness week is a time to educate students, parents, and all individuals who work with children about the effects of bullying and how to prevent it. When citizens understand the pervasiveness of bullying and have the knowledge to prevent it, they are empowered to create an educational environment where bullying is not tolerated. All children deserve to feel safe. Thank you for your time and attention to LR563. [LR563]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Howard. You've heard the opening to LR563. We'll now proceed to LR564. [LR563 LR564]

CLERK: LR564, Mr. President, is by Senator Gay, found on page 1430 of the Journal. [LR564]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Gay, you're recognized to open on LR564. [LR564]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you, Mr. President. This is to congratulate the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission which was created by the Legislature in 2005. It was to define boundaries for opportunity zones, focus attention and increase awareness of the opportunities and needs in a particular region of Nebraska--I-80 referred to as an opportunity zone--advocate by proposing solutions to development and infrastructure challenges; encourage and support continuity, coordination, and cooperation among national, state, multicomunity, and local economic development initiatives and service providers in the opportunity zone; and serve as an advisory body to the Governor, the state agencies, and the Legislature on economic development issues in the zone. I would also take this opportunity, Mr. President and members, to acknowledge one individual. There are many individuals on that economic zone, but...the innovation zone, John Plucknett though, members, just last night passed away and John was on that zone in the committee since the beginning. I had a chance to work with him for a few years while I served on the committee and, unfortunately, last night he quickly passed away. Senator Pankonin, who was also very close to John. John served as president of the Home State Bank but he was so active in the Cass County community and the community of Louisville and he will be missed, but I would really acknowledge his service on that, especially today as we mourn his loss. But anyway, if you could join me in congratulating the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR564]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Gay. You've heard the opening to LR564. We'll now proceed to LR565. [LR564 LR565]

CLERK: LR565 by Senator McCoy, found on page 1431 of the Journal. [LR565]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator McCoy, you are recognized to open on LR565. [LR565]

SENATOR MELLO: Thank you, Mr. President and members. LR565 is to congratulate the 23 young men who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout during this session from District 39. Obviously, there's too many to acknowledge individually with resolutions, but I would seek to congratulate and would ask for your support as well to congratulate these individuals that have reached 5 percent, the level of scouting that only 5 percent of Boy Scouts reach and attain, and I know it will serve them well in life throughout their lives, whatever they may do, as it has enriched my life as well. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR565]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator McCoy. You've heard the opening to LR565. We'll now proceed to LR567. [LR565 LR567]

CLERK: LR567, resolution by Senator Pahls, found on page 1445 of the Journal. [LR567]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Pahls, you're recognized to open on LR567. [LR567]

SENATOR PAHLS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LR567 recognizes the efforts of one legislative employee whose efforts helped the state financially. We applaud Liz Hruska in the Fiscal Office. Her efforts helped the state secure an additional \$6.3 million in federal Medicaid funding. It's through her diligence and going after details that did help accomplish that task. I also need to say, when I had a bill dealing with autism, she helped me work that through the system and I do appreciate that. I truly believe that this resolution gives us the opportunity to pause and recognize not only Liz but all the rest of our employees who work diligently for us and the state of Nebraska. Just to give you an idea, within this hour Steve Kellogg from the Print Shop did something for my office that's going to help us immensely. So I do think we have many employees out there, other than these two, who are working and serving us well. Thank you. [LR567]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pahls. You've heard the opening to LR567. We'll now proceed to LR569. [LR567 LR569]

CLERK: LR569 is by Senator Fulton, found on page 1454. [LR569]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Fulton, you're recognized to open on LR569. [LR569]

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SENATOR FULTON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This resolution is to congratulate Ms. Lana Peterson-Pressler on her achievements. Ms. Peterson-Pressler is a teacher in Lincoln Public Schools and recently won/received, from the national elementary physical education group, the Teacher of the Year Award. She's the only teacher from Nebraska to receive the National Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. It's quite an accomplishment and I ask the body's approval. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR569]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Fulton. You've heard the opening to LR569. We'll now proceed to LR570. [LR569 LR570]

CLERK: LR570 is by Senator Rogert, found on page 1455 of the Journal. [LR570]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Rogert, you're recognized to open on LR570. [LR570]

SENATOR ROBERT: Thank you, Mr. President. LR570 is to congratulate the city of Pender in Thurston County, who will be celebrating their 125th anniversary this year, and just want to congratulate them on their longevity and their fruitfulness as a community and I plan on being up there to help them celebrate. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR570]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Rogert. You have heard the opening to LR570. We will now entertain members requesting to speak on these legislative resolutions. Seeing none, members, the question before the body will be on the adoption of LR554, LR555, LR557, LR558, LR559, LR560, LR561, LR562, LR563, LR564, LR565, LR567, LR569, and LR570. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LR554 LR555 LR557 LR558 LR559 LR560 LR561 LR562 LR563 LR564 LR565 LR567 LR569 LR570]

CLERK: 47 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the resolutions. [LR554 LR555 LR557 LR558 LR559 LR560 LR561 LR562 LR563 LR564 LR565 LR567 LR569 LR570]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The legislative resolutions are adopted. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR554, LR555, LR557, LR558, LR559, LR560, LR561, LR562, LR563, LR564, LR565, LR567, LR569, and LR570. Mr. Clerk, is there additional unfinished business on your desk? Senator Gay, you are recognized for a motion. [LR554 LR555 LR557 LR558 LR559 LR560 LR561 LR562 LR563 LR564 LR565 LR567 LR569 LR570]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a committee of five be appointed to notify the Governor that the One Hundred First Legislature, Second

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Session of the Nebraska Legislature, is about to complete its work and to return with any message the Governor may have for the Legislature. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. I would appoint the following committee: Senator Stuthman, Senator Gay, Senator Howard, Senator Coash, and Senator Sullivan. Would you retire to the rear of the Chamber and escort the Governor. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms. (Gavel) []

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Dave Heineman. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Nebraska Legislature, Governor Dave Heineman of the great state of Nebraska. []

GOVERNOR HEINEMAN: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, friends, and fellow Nebraskans, at the beginning of this session, I outlined my vision for ensuring a strong future for Nebraska this year and in the years ahead. That vision is reflected in three priorities: growing our economy, strengthening education, and developing an even more-efficient government for our state. As we gather at the end of this year's legislative session, our state has been strengthened by our partnership. We are in an exceptional and enviable position in comparison to our neighbors and our colleagues across the country. Nebraska's financial health and stability is stronger than most of our peers because we have worked together and because we put a priority on being fiscally responsible. For example, prior to last year's special session, Nebraska faced a significant revenue shortfall. We acted decisively to address the \$335 million shortfall. In just 12 days, we reduced spending rather than raising taxes and the budget was adopted with a unanimous vote. In this session, your actions kept the budget in balance. We stuck to the basic principle that has served Nebraskans and our state so well--we don't spend money we don't have. Nebraska is moving forward. Our efforts to grow our economy and to provide a more business friendly environment are working. Forbes ranks Nebraska as one of the best states for business. Additionally, Nebraska is ranked third in terms of fiscal fitness. Our commitment to fiscally responsible policies, both in the private and public sectors, has resulted in Nebraska having the second lowest unemployment rate in America. Our strategic decisions have placed us in a position to weather Nebraska's financial challenges. During this session, we were also able to take several actions that have positioned our state to take advantage of new opportunities. The Nebraska Advantage Transformational Tourism and Redevelopment Act will provide local residents with the opportunity to approve economic development efforts connected to tourism and community revitalization. It adds to the package of incentives already contained in the Nebraska Advantage. This provides an opportunity for residents to decide what kind of economic development opportunities they want to

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support by helping developers recoup some of the cost of building attractions that benefit area residents and businesses. The Nebraska Advantage has been successful in attracting new business interests to our state and creating opportunities for local companies to expand. This addition will encourage new opportunities that add to the quality of life factors important to individuals and families. LB1048 marks the beginning of accelerated wind energy development in Nebraska. This legislation, combined with previous wind energy legislation, will help Nebraska achieve its wind energy potential. I fully expect Nebraska to be a top ten wind energy producing state by 2020. This legislation reflects Nebraska's commitment to clean energy, energy independence, rural economic development, and jobs for rural Nebraska. You have also tackled several other difficult and significant issues, including juvenile justice, increased transparency in government, and historic pro-life legislation. At a time when the national dialogue is more likely to be contentious than collegial, more divisive than unified, our discussions have been responsible, respectful, and productive. In our state we put Nebraska's best interests above any special interest. We work together for the common good of Nebraska. I'm proud of our state and our citizens. There is no better place to live, to work, and to raise a family than right here in Nebraska. Thank you for your work on behalf of our citizens. This was a good session. Thank you very much. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Governor Heineman. Would the committee escort the Governor from the Chamber. Would members please take their seats as we prepare for farewell by legislators. Senator McGill, you're recognized for remarks. []

SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I have the pleasure of thanking Senator Nordquist for doing the normally thankless job of being E&R Chair for the last two years. I have to say that I was very thrilled to pass this along to him and I think he's done a pretty good job but maybe not as best or looked as good as I did when I was doing it. (Laughter) But I am pretty sure he's created a fan following out there amongst the NET viewers. He told me the other day somebody actually e-mailed him, wanting him to fix an E&R amendment, so apparently he was slacking at his duties. But everyone in the body should really be thankful for the uneventful, time-consuming job of being E&R Chair. So, Senator Nordquist, come up. We have a gift for you on behalf of the body, a computer bag, in appreciation of the great job you've done so that all of us didn't have to do it. Thanks. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Nordquist, you're recognized for a reply. (Laughter) Speaker Flood, you're recognized for remarks. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. My honor today to present the President of the Legislature with a plaque and a gavel recognizing his service to the One Hundred First Legislature. He always has an outstanding demeanor. He's always friendly. He listens to us at length without comment and does a fine job, and represents the people of the state very well. Not only that, but he puts hundreds of thousands of

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miles on his car driving around our state. Please help me recognize the President of the Nebraska Legislature, Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Speaker Flood. Mr. Clerk, you're recognized. []

CLERK: Mr. President, thank you. Members, I'm not going to take long. My two favorite days of any legislative life are the first day when you come in, in the odd years, when you organize yourself. There's lots of energy in the room, committee assignments are made, and it's just a wonderfully exciting time for I'm sure all of the staff. But the second day is today. (Laughter) The second day, not because it's so much sine die, but the second day...the last day of the second session is when we thank people for the jobs that they've done, we congratulate you for jobs well done, and we say good-bye to some friends and colleagues. It's my pleasure today, as your Clerk, to express the One Hundred First Legislature's appreciation and gratitude to Speaker Mike Flood. We all know Speaker Flood as energetic, patient, and hardworking. We've come to know him as that tenacious gavel pounder and the presiding officer who likes to keep order. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to spend some time this summer looking for an artisan to craft us some new gavels just in case. (Laughter) But there's something else that many of you probably don't know or don't recognize. I had the good fortune to work with Speaker Flood when he was first elected two years ago. I will share with you that he has an uncanny institutional perspective that I've never seen in a first-term legislator. He has successfully and continually walks that fine line between good relationships with other branches of government while standing up and protecting legislative institution and legislative prerogatives. There have been many occasions where I've been privy to meetings and discussions where I've seen him protect all of your mutual interests. At the same time, he works to understand, he works to appreciate contributions each of you make to this institution. He works on contentious issues by working with members and committee Chairs to facilitate solutions. He is focused on results and not on taking credit for solutions. Members, on behalf of the One Hundred First Legislature, its members and staff, would you please join me in expressing our deep appreciation and gratitude to Speaker Mike Flood. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Pankonin, you're recognized to make remarks. []

SENATOR PANKONIN: Good afternoon. It's my honor and privilege to introduce a friend of mine, Senator Tim Gay. You know, I think friendships develop when you have shared experiences and shared values, and as far as shared experiences go with Senator Gay, that started in 2006 when we were both running for this office. I met Senator Gay at an activity in Sarpy County and soon thereafter he called me and said, I've got a wonderful sign location for you and it's in your district but I know the people; it's a great place for a big sign. Now that's a way to make fast friends when you're running for office, right, folks? (Laughter) But we went on to have other shared

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experiences. We were elected. We ended up serving on two of the same standing committees. And as all of you know from being on committees, you spend a lot of time with those folks, get to know them and serve with them, and we enjoyed it and got to be better friends because of it. And then I've been proud to serve not only with him but as a committee member of the HHS Committee, and he is our Chairman, and enjoyed that experience and appreciated the hard work of that committee with sometimes very difficult issues. We also shared the experience of trying to serve while keeping business careers intact and trying to balance that, which is sometimes very difficult, as many of you know, with all the duties that we have to do. But we also shared a lot of values and at first it was approach to government, a philosophy, but also the importance of public service and what that motto and what that creed means for us to take that time out of our personal lives to try to make this a better place for all of our citizens and for the children to come. But we also shared a family priority that we talked about quite often over the last year, and shortly before Senator Gay circulated the letter to all of us that he was not going to run again we stood out in this hall, where it's always so great and sunlit, and we talked about his commitment to his children in their formative years and how that trumped his love for this place and the service that it meant; that he just felt for not only their financial support but really to be there for them, during those teenage years or as they approach those years, to be the best father than he could. And I talked about that on the floor earlier, how I admire that and appreciate that because, as I mentioned that day, that's the legacy we really leave. So I admire Senator Gay's work here in this body and his priorities in his life, and I want to wish him well, as we all do. And I'm sure we'll hear of him again, maybe in a public service way but also as a private citizen and as a business person. But I just want to introduce my friend Senator Tim Gay. []

SENATOR GAY: Thank you, Dave. If I could quit right there, I'd be good. I mean that's so...such very nice things. But that is correct. Dave and I spent a lot of time together on different committees and we did get to know each other very well, and I appreciate him and those kind words. But I'm a little nervous standing up here because I think this is the first time ever that I've had 48 senators actually listening to what I say (laughter) on a microphone, so we'll see how it goes. But I want to get the hard part out of the way first. You know, I want to thank my wife. She's been great as far as all the things they do, and you all know, with spouses, how much that is. I mean if you're...especially those of you who are away and can't get home every night, it's a big commitment. And if any...I get any accolades, she should receive half, that's for sure. Anyway, my wife Tonee has put up with now 16 years of politics and political life and, you know, there's a certain point where she has things she wants to do and we have family growing quickly. Four years is a short time but it's a long time, so I felt this is a good opportunity to say, you know, let's take a step back and see what the future holds and what other opportunities there may be out there. And I promised her, I said we'll get back to a normal life--I don't know what that is because our life is fairly hectic--but as most normal life as we can get with the activities going on. So thank you. But also I say that, you

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know, that's the one thing, I was looking at some of the sacrifices you all make and I looked at that. It's like, man, I can't believe, you know, some of the things you do, to be gone for...you don't get a chance to go home, many of you, and that's a heck of a sacrifice. Make sure you tell your spouse, whether it be a he or she...because I know some of the women, their husbands do a lot of work, too, while you're all here. And this is a lot of fun, let's face it. I mean we have fun. It's an awesome responsibility but we do have fun, and sometimes I bet at home they're not having as much fun as we are here, so anyway. I'd be remiss...I got a great staff. I was lucky. I kind of hit the ground running. I was introduced to Lisa Johns. She's been this great staff member. I mean she, of any success I have as well, she really helped me out with her experience. I came in with an experienced legislative assistant and it just made a world of difference. So with my skills of sales, maybe we should say, and hers of actually technically knowing something, we made a good combination. But I can't thank her enough. She's done a great, great job and she's been with me all four years. So thanks to her. Jena Buettgenbach, she's been my administrative assistant for four years as well and it's been fun kind of watching her grow up and become a young professional. She's one I didn't envy her job as every day I would change my schedule probably when I came in and it's like, I don't think I want to do that today, or something would come up, but she just did a great job helping me along the way. And last year I hired Michelle Chaffee as legal counsel for Health and Human Services and she's just, again, remarkable. She learned so quickly how to get along with people and it's amazing what people do around here and she's been excellent in just the short time she's worked with me. Erin Mack, who has been the clerk of the committee, has just been...made me look good, you know, and that's hard to do sometimes in those committee hearings, as you know, but everything was always perfect and I've been blessed with that. If I didn't say thanks to my employer as well, the flexibility that American National Bank gave me to come down here and adjust my schedule and my career goals has been tremendous, so I'd be remiss if I left them out. But I had mentioned Senator Pankonin as an influence and others of you, I don't want to get into names but very good friends. It's kind of interesting, I think, when our class came in of 26 people. It's kind of interesting, and I'm sure you can all remember this, too, when you came in with us. It's like you're sitting around, looking around the room, kind of sizing people up and, you know, the first things they say, you kind of sit in the situation, and to see who does what and who becomes leaders and the relationships you build, that's been very interesting and so that's been fun. But I leave with a lot of good friends. And the new young people that are coming in, I think they've got great talents and I'm looking forward to seeing what they could do. As I look around the Legislature here and up there and all the people that maybe aren't in the Chamber, it just amazes me, in a time where government is being kind of put down in a lot of ways, it's like when I see the very best of people, that's amazing. You know, I've never been one to criticize government. Can it change? Of course. But when they see the dedication of people and we heard about Liz today and Liz is one of the many people. But just a story with Liz and others, but, you know, 10:30 at night she's working on bills with me and getting things done, her compassion and others though that I've

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seen too. I single her out because I got a chance to work closely with her but...and many of you who the compassion here that you've shown is just amazing to me and if people knew what we do here they would have a lot more respect, I think, for our government and things would change a little bit. But I heard Senator Ashford talk about the amount of responsibility and the passion when he said that a few days ago it's like, you know, you're right, I never thought of that but it is, it is all about us, so. But anyway, I better wrap it up here. This has been 110 percent a great experience for me, wouldn't change it for the world. I'm looking forward to good things in the future and see what happens, but thank you all for putting up with me for four years. Thank you. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Ashford, you're recognized for remarks. []

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. This is an honor. I'm standing up here introducing my friend Tom White. Before I came up here, he said, you know, someone has to be the left end of the Legislature, and I said back to him, I don't know if that's so true. Tom may think he's the left end at times but I would say that he has been and will always be someone who is committed to working for solutions for the common guy on the street. He's been that way as long as I've known him. I knew his father, know his father, admired his father as a Supreme Court Chief Justice, and Tom has carried on that tradition from Columbus to Omaha and now running for Congress, the tradition of thinking about everybody else first, he's done that over and over again. What are some of the hallmarks of his years here? Well, clearly his commitment to transparency in government and his success in shepherding bills through on that issue, making sure that the public understands what we in government are doing. Those are...that's a big job and he did it well. On tax policy, representing the little guy, the guy that isn't necessarily getting the tax breaks or whatever but the guy that goes to work every day, the family, raising a family, sending his children to school. I remember when his son got into Rice and I'll leave it to Tom to talk about that. I think he talked about it for two weeks straight. I've never seen a prouder father than Tom talking about that experience and his son going to one of the very quality schools in the United States. I also remember Tom and I will always remember Tom's ability to insert himself at just the right moment. I've never figured out how to do that, but (laughter) when we were...I'm here every moment; Tom just waits for the right moment. But when we were doing the bill on education, the learning community, and you know I'm pulling my hair out and what do we do and Ron is doing this and everybody is kind of running around and Tom races to the back of the room and into the lobby and comes back, we got a deal. My gracious sakes! (Laugh) How do you do that? If I'm ever in need of an aggressive attorney, that's who I will choose in Tom White. I want to lastly say this. I want to thank Tom really. Personally, as a lawyer, as a member of the Bar Association, as a member of this body, I want to thank him for the education that he gave us on the issues, really an immense ability to think, to be incisive, to work through the issues and to help us get to a conclusion, not necessarily the conclusion that he may have wanted when he started but the right conclusion for this body. That's a gift. It's a gift that you're born with,

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that you carry on throughout your life, that you get from your family, your mother and your father. I'm very proud to call Tom White my friend. Congratulations. Thank you. []

SENATOR WHITE: They are but leaves in an autumn wind, words, especially the words of men and politicians. And, boy, has it been windy around here the last four years. (Laughter) And I want to thank the Speaker for scheduling me now. I was afraid I was going to have to follow Senator Stuthman and that would have been difficult. I want to talk to you all briefly about words and what they mean. Really, they don't mean anything if they're just spoken. They're a colorful and momentary diversion of the coming of winter. It's only when they convey an idea and it's only when they're heard and they convince, and then with conviction comes change, that they mean anything at all. And when they do become a matter of conviction, they become great stones on which the foundations of a great life can be built and a great society. And we are in a hall built on ideas that became stones. We are the only single body in the country, we are the only nonpartisan body in the country, and those were ideas that came from Senator George Norris. They started as words. They started as mere leaves blowing in the wind and they turned into this hall of stone. And if ever those ideas needed to take root again in this country it is now. Senator George Norris was a Republican, and yet when he was reelected two years after Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected, FDR wrote a letter and said no electoral victory gave me greater pleasure than yours, Senator Norris. And reaching across party lines, Senator Norris worked with FDR in times at least as desperate and contentious as those we face today, and they reached across party lines and together they created the Tennessee Valley Authority and reignited an economy and created a country that became the arsenal of democracy. And that was possible because George Norris didn't just speak those words, didn't just create this body. He went to a place where partisanship was the rule, where success was measured by small victories for politicians or parties rather than the advancement of the country and the people as a whole, and he did not forget the words that became ideas, that became convictions that built this place and this institution. And because he did not forget them when he went to Washington and because he was willing to take punishment of his own party for reaching across party lines and working not for his personal advancement but for the country, those stones became the Norris Dam, they transformed one of the poorest areas of the country into one of the most prosperous, and he changed the lives of generations. We could desperately use George Norris again, but, failing that, each and every one of us should take back into the country at large the lessons that George Norris taught us because this country could sorely learn those lessons anew. It has been an honor to serve with all of you. Thank you. []

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Tom. That was brilliant. I think I've thought about the next opportunity and honor I have and that's to introduce my friend Arnie Stuthman, and when I thought about it, I thought about the Cheetos and the fact, when I'm asked, why do you keep running every day, and it's very easy, because of the Cheetos that Arnie Stuthman has been feeding me for four years I have no choice. But on a serious note,

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on a serious note, why are we all here? We're all here because we share common values. And though we may differ in our political views and we certainly differ on issues, I don't believe we differ on our values. And I think those values which are, in my view, Nebraska values, and Tom touched on those, the idea of hard work, the idea of commitment to community, and commitment to family, and hard work not just one day, one week out of a year or maybe one year out of ten years, but hard work for a lot of years and a lot of time and a lot of commitment to your family and to your community and your church. I can't think of anybody that more epitomizes that than Arnie Stuthman. I mean I am just flabbergasted at his career--50 years of service to his community and his state, 50 years without any interruption, after his graduation from high school, the Air National Guard, volunteer firefighter, county board of supervisors in Columbus, working as an independent business person in agriculture as a hog producer, working for the Hog Producers Association of Nebraska, service for these eight years as a senator in the Nebraska Unicameral. Year after year after year of service, 50 years of service, it's incredible and it's...and I'm just honored to be able to introduce him today. I guess as I've mentioned on this floor several times, what is the defining moment, and I sometimes say it with some degree of humor in Arnie Stuthman's contribution to this body as a political body or as a policy body, and to me it is that day when he appeared on national television and was asked about the safe haven law, which was the bill that he introduced two or three years before it passed and introduced it each year: Aren't you embarrassed by this, all these older children being dropped off at hospitals in Omaha? And Arnie is sitting there, live television on NBC: We don't get embarrassed in Nebraska by things like that; we care about our children; whether they're infants or older children, it doesn't matter to us. That wasn't some thought pattern that he went through. That was a spontaneous answer to a question on national television. And I called him up from North Platte, and I know I've told this story but I'm never tired of telling it, and just was so impressed by Arnie Stuthman and representing our values, the values of our state. Arnie, thank you very much for being here for 8 years and all your 50 years of service. []

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. First of all, thanks to Lieutenant Governor Sheehy, thanks to Speaker Flood, and all of my fellow senators, past and present. And first of all, I would like to thank Senator Ashford for those kind remarks. It really, really touched my heart when he said, you know, that I've been serving for 50 years. It doesn't seem that long but it just seems like, you know, if I can accomplish one thing, there's something to move on to, because I've always had an interest in trying to help people, especially the youth of the state of Nebraska. Now first of all, the first thing that I would like to do is I wanted to introduce you to my wife. Nancy, would you please stand, Nancy? And also joining my wife is her sister and her husband, Steve and Eunice Ruth from Rising City. At this time, I want to give a special thanks to my wife Nancy for ironing over 600 shirts during my eight years, and I know on every weekend on Sunday evening she would say, well, I guess I better get the shirts ironed for you going in the morning, so how many you need this week? So...but I really thank

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her for that. I also want to send my sincere thanks to my sons, Jeff and Todd, and my grandson Tony for keeping the farm operation going, you know, while I've served down here. They've meant a lot to me and they have kept it going. And I also appreciate my entire family, you know, for supporting me and keeping up with my hectic schedule. Also, I want to thank several people for the good friendships that I have made, Vicki, Patrick, Carol, Dick, and Diana, and all of the pages that are here and Kitty. It's been a real pleasure, you know, to work with you and be friends with you. And I know some of the pages, it's really a treat for them to watch the performance of all of us out here on the floor. (Laughter) Also, I would like to thank the red coats for keeping me in line on the floor as to when the lights should be put on or if I should be sitting down in my seat, and especially I want to thank Lois and Sally. Is Sally out...thank you, Sally. Sally, it's been a pleasure, you know, working with you. Also, I would like to have an immense thank you to my staff. Kurt Bulgrin, my legislative aide at the present time, has been with me all eight years, and Mandy has been with me a couple years, and those two individuals are like gold to me. They work so well together. I am very comfortable with them, I'm at ease with them. And I would also like to thank Robert Bell that started with me eight years ago. He was with me a couple years and then the Governor's Office hired him away from me and the only reason the Governor's Office hired him away from me is because of my guidance and training that I gave to him. (Laughter) It's truly been an experience serving as a senator for the state of Nebraska. In my eight years of service, I've had the privilege to work with 96 senators and two Governors. Senator Loudon, thank you for serving with me for the full eight years. Thank you very much, LeRoy. All of you will be my friends forever and I'm sure our paths will cross in the near future. I will try to keep involved in the political process. Some of you have never had the opportunity to serve with Senator Chambers and now the other half of the Arnie and Ernie show will be closed for the time being. Serving as the District 22 state senator has been one of the most stressful jobs that I've ever had, but it also has been one of the most rewarding jobs that I've had too. And the reason it's rewarding to me is, being a senator, people have problems of trying to open doors, trying to make communications, trying to get answers, and as a senator I could try to open the doors, I would communicate with them, I could help them if at all possible and I would tell them if there was no way that I could help them or they could not be helped, but they appreciated that because of the fact that, you know, I communicated with them. I communicated with a lot of people in my district and out of my district, but I always respected the people that wanted to get some help or wanted to have some direction to go. There are a couple of things that I have relied on in my life and that is honesty, common sense, and being able to defend every word that comes out of my mouth. Keeping those things in mind, everything else is easy. Now as I close another chapter in my book of life, I will say that this chapter will be filled with many pages of friends that I have met in the past eight years, friends that will be friends forever. And I want to wish each and every one of you a blessed and successful summer and I hope we don't have to come back for a special session. Thank you for allowing me to serve as a senator with all of you. Thank you. []

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Speaker Flood, you are recognized for an announcement. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'll make this brief, as we intend to wind things down here just momentarily. I wanted to recap for all of you the session that we had and thank you for your service, and I think it's been mentioned many times here but I also thank your spouses and your loved ones back home for their service as they allow the rest of us to come here and do the people's work. Fiscal responsibility, in my opinion, was the hallmark of this session: a deficit budget cut an additional 2 percent on top of a 7 percent special session cut, totalling \$7.1 million; an anticipated \$679 million budget shortfall for next year, the next biennium, I think we're well prepared given our work this year. And more than anything else what we can be proud of is that we've been as conservative as we have with the state's Cash Reserve. Show me another state that has \$321.9 million in a savings account and we've been in economic hard times for almost two years. I think that speaks well for the Legislature, I think that speaks well for the restraint we have shown, and we can all be very proud about that as we go back to our districts. Not to mention the fact that, in my opinion, we made progress on some of Nebraska's toughest issues: wind energy, unbelievable progress with LB1048 and we'll see development because of it; our budget and the Appropriations Committee, their commitment and those long hours to deliver the numbers that they have and the cuts that we signed off on; juvenile justice reform, although it didn't get as much time on the floor, the results will be amazing, especially in our state's largest county as senators from Omaha and people from across this state have great hope for Douglas County as they take care of juvenile issues that have been a prominent issue in the Omaha area; economic development, show me another state that's done what we have during hard times to grow Nebraska's economy, to grow their state's economy; state aid funding for community colleges, Senator Ashford, Senator Adams, I worked with them hand in hand and watched them wrestle with one of the state's toughest issues as we worked toward compromise next year. And I want to recognize Senator Harms. He brought forward the bill that increases penalties for minors in possession of alcohol, and Senator Karpisek on the drugs. We made progress this session and there's a lot more than this to talk about. I could look at each one of you and probably list five or six things that I remember about your service this session that we can be proud of. All in all, by the numbers, 196 bills passed, another 55 bills were amended by amendment, we addressed all of the 101 priority bills available for debate and, as Speaker, that's my proudest achievement because we worked with the committees to get that done. And of those 101 priority bills, 80 passed into law, 14 failed to move beyond General File, 2 failed to move beyond Select File, and 5 were held in committee. As we look towards next year, we've got the LR542 resolution and our work will be to identify areas to cut the budget so that we do our part. Thank you for your efforts. And I know one of the interesting things about the Legislature, as we all go home, we all sign back up to learn about a specific set of problems in our district. I'll tell you, being from Norfolk, it always strikes me, with the awesome responsibility we have, my problems just aren't in Madison County but they are across the state. We share

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each other's problems. And as Senator Council and Senator Ashford, members of the Judiciary go home, I know their focus is on the rising gun violence in Omaha and so today I'd hope that all of us would join Senator Council and her committee and Senator Ashford, as Chair of the Judiciary Committee, to help find answers to the needless violence that's occurring in her community. At this point, I'd like to recognize the staff that's here today. I'd ask you to hold your applause until we have an opportunity to have everybody stand. I'll start with obviously all of our own staff from our offices that help us every single day. I know some of them are here. Please stand. I'd like to also recognize my office staff, Jeanette, Laurie, and Matt, who do a great job. With us today we have obviously the Clerk's Office, which includes folks from the Bill Room, Transcribers, Unicameral Information Office, Legislative Technology Center, Sergeant at Arms, legislative pages. We have with us today representatives of the Nebraska State Patrol, they always are standing (laughter), the Fiscal Office, the Revisor's Office, Legislative Accounting and Budgeting Office, Legislative Research Division, Ombudsman's Office, Legislative Audit Division, committee staff, individual senators' staff, and anybody else that's connected with the Legislature, including our Lieutenant Governor. Would you please all rise so that we may recognize you. Thank you very much for your service to the state and for working with us during these financially hard times. Thank you, Mr. President, and have a good interim. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Speaker Flood. Senator White, you're recognized for a motion. []

SENATOR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. President, I move that the Legislature approve the preparation and printing of the permanent Legislative Journal, session laws, and indexes by Patrick J. O'Donnell and that he be directed to send to each member of the Legislature a copy of the permanent Journal and session laws. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator White. You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Stuthman, you're recognized for a motion. []

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. I move that the Journal of the sixtieth day, as prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature, be approved and that the One Hundred First Legislature, Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature, having finished all business before it, now at 2:55 p.m. we adjourn sine die. []

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. We adjourn sine die. []