

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 356

Introduced by Hadley, 37.

WHEREAS, Berri Balka passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska, on May 19, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Berri was currently serving as a legislative aide to State Senator Galen Hadley, and prior to that directed the Department of Revenue as Tax Commissioner under Governor Ben Nelson from 1991-99. He also served as deputy director and director of the Department of Insurance under Governor Jim Exon from 1975-78; and

WHEREAS, born and raised on a farm and ranch near Lisco, Nebraska, Berri attended Garden County High School and participated in Cornhusker Boys' State. He graduated with a B.A. in mathematics and economics from the University of Wyoming, and then served as an officer in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, after completing his military service, Berri received a J.D. degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law and practiced real estate, commercial, and insurance law in the state before entering government service; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his Nebraska law practice experience, Berri was engaged in marketing and insurance consulting, and was also involved in finance and insurance activities in Nevada. Prior to serving as Tax Commissioner, he worked for the insurance division of an international

corporation in Arizona, later directing its United Kingdom insurance operations in London, England; and

WHEREAS, Berri served as Tax Commissioner during the launch of the Nebraska Lottery, creation of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC), and implementation of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA); and

WHEREAS, Berri is survived by his wife, Judy, two daughters, and two grandsons.

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

1. That the Legislature extends its sympathy to the family, friends, and state colleagues of Berri Balka and recognizes him for his many years of dedicated service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Judy Balka and her family.