

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 287

Introduced by Erdman, 47.

WHEREAS, King Robert Rhiley, Jr., was born the son of a Pikes Peak-winning race car driver, grew to love fast cars, and drove a Camero Z28 at the age of ninety; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr.'s true passion was flying; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. took his first dual flight on July 31, 1947, and took his first solo flight four months later; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. accumulated an estimated thirty thousand hours of total flying time before his retirement in 2009; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. taught his sons and friends how to fly and to operate an aerial applicator, offered pilot services to aircraft owners, and served as a volunteer pilot for flights transporting critically ill patients from small rural hospitals to larger urban hospitals; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. became the first manager of the Garden County Airport in 1957, made the airport accessible twenty-four hours a day in the early 1960s, and extended the runway to four thousand six hundred ninety-nine feet to make it possible for private jets to take off and land; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. received a commercial flight rating on March 19, 1960, and became a Certified Flight Instructor in June of that same year; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. learned the art of crop dusting and received his Instrument and Multi-engine Land rating in December 1962. He later earned his Rotorcraft Helicopter Instructor rating in January 1966; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. taught his grandson how to fly in the same Piper Cub in which he learned to fly back in 1947; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. made his final landing in 2009 and received a Certificate of Achievement from the Aircraft Owner and Pilots Association for

sixty years of active membership; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration renamed the Garden County Airport "King Rhiley Field" on June 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, King Rhiley Jr. will be inducted into the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame on January 23, 2020.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes the outstanding aviation achievements of King Robert Rhiley, Jr., and honors King Robert Rhiley, Jr., as a model citizen, husband, father, and grandfather.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of King Robert Rhiley, Jr.