

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 44

Introduced by Arch, 14.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2023, the NEBRASKAland Foundation will present the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award, recognizing Nebraskans who have distinguished themselves and the state, to former United States Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Hagel served two terms as a United States Senator representing the State of Nebraska with distinction from 1997 to 2009 before being appointed the twenty-fourth United States Secretary of Defense from February 2013 to February 2015, and during his tenure as Secretary of Defense directed significant steps to modernize our country's partnerships and alliances, bolstered support for European allies, and enhanced defense cooperation in the Middle East while overseeing America's combat mission in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Hagel was the first enlisted combat veteran and Vietnam veteran to serve as Secretary of Defense, leading major initiatives to assist service members and their families, including increasing resources for suicide prevention, combating sexual assault, and accounting for missing personnel while improving partnerships with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for health record interoperability, service treatment record transferability, and continuity of mental health services and support; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Hagel also served as a Distinguished Professor at Georgetown University and served on many high-profile boards and civic organizations, including serving as Co-Chairperson of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board, Chairperson of the Atlantic Council, Chairperson of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee,

Co-Chairperson of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Corporate Council, and serving as a member of the Secretary of Defense's Policy Board, Secretary of Energy's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, Georgetown's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, United States Global Leadership Coalition, United States Institute of Peace Middle East Senior Working Group, Bread for the World, and Lung Cancer Alliance; and

WHEREAS, prior to being elected to the United States Senate, Secretary Hagel graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, was President of McCarthy & Company and co-founded VANGUARD Cellular Systems, Inc., served as President and chief executive officer of the World USO, became the chief operating officer of the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations, served as Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration under President Ronald Reagan, and also was deputy commissioner general of the United States of the 1982 World's Fair; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Hagel is a fourth-generation Nebraskan, who has received numerous prestigious awards, including two Purple Hearts, and authored the book, "America: Our Next Chapter" while dedicating his private, public, and volunteer career to make the world better by empowering people and organizations to succeed.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates former United States Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel as a recipient of the Distinguished NEBRASKALander Award and extends its appreciation for his service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to former United States Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.