

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 275

Introduced by Raybould, 28.

WHEREAS, Steve Hennessey, a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, has overcome an astonishing amount of adversity in his life; and

WHEREAS, Steve was born in 1959 and after losing both of his parents at a young age, was the only child of three not adopted; and

WHEREAS, after growing up at the Martin Luther Home in Beatrice, now MOSAIC, and through support from Vocational Rehabilitation, the ARC of Lincoln, and a short stay at a group home as a young adult, Steve succeeded at living independently and working independently as a janitor for over four decades at the Denney Federal Building in Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, Steve was a hard worker and went many years without missing a single day of work due to illness; and

WHEREAS, known for his joyful personality and his intense work ethic, he befriended United States Marshalls, the FBI office staff, and federal judges; and

WHEREAS, he was nominated in 2015 by Judge C. Arlen Beam to be the Goodwill International Achiever of the year and was honored with the world wide award in a ceremony in San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, Steve has been recognized as an outstanding individual throughout his lifetime on the front pages of the Lincoln Journal and the Omaha World-Herald as well as in several YouTube videos and part of a Nebraska Stories segment on Nebraska Educational Telecommunications; and

WHEREAS, it has been said that the worth of a nation is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members and Steve benefited from the compassionate care found in the Aging and Developmental Disabilities waiver program which has allowed him to live in his own apartment; and

WHEREAS, Steve's story is an illustration of what a more perfect union looks like in practice; a sterling example of the words of the Declaration of Independence that in this country, and in this state, all are indeed created equal, and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Everyone matters.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes Steve Hennessy for overcoming great adversity in his life and for his dedication and commitment to the people he worked with and befriended in his job and his community.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Steve Hennessey.