

Legislature today the National President of our legislative organization, the National Council of State Legislatures, Senator David Nething from North Dakota. Traveling with Senator Nething is Bill Pound who heads the Denver NCSL office. There is another staff person, but I don't see her at the moment. So, Sharon Lawrence is just walking in the room in her white suit. Please, help me welcome them to the Nebraska Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Thank you for coming. I hope that you can make some very favorable comparisons from today's visit. We proceed into resolutions. LR 331. LR 331.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 331 was offered by Senator Beutler. Mr. President, I might add a suggestion, with Senator Beutler's permission, that is to add the names of all members, unless there is objection.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler. Members, the Clerk announces that unless there is objection from you, all your names will be put on the resolution. Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak on this or not?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That is great. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this resolution is simple. It basically expresses the condolences and sympathy of the people of Nebraska to the families and loved ones of the seven crew members of the space shuttle Challenger. Some people we adopt immediately, we take to our hearts in an instant because some people symbolize the nation. We, in Nebraska, are part of the nation and we are proud of it. So, those who are heroes of the nation are special to us, the same as if they grew up in Scottsbluff, or Ainsworth, or Omaha, and so it is with the Challenger crew. We took a lot of pride, collectively, in the accomplishments of the astronauts, in the things that they did and have done over the years. And now, today, we share in the collective grief of the nation over the tragedy which has occurred. It seems that too many of history's heroes have been war heroes because there has been too much war, too many wars. But the Challenger seven were peace heroes. They died not to defend a frontier from a contending people, but to expand a frontier for all people. Let us hope that in the future the heroes of our future will be mostly peace heroes, and that they will not be called upon to make the kind of sacrifice that was made by the Challenger seven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.