

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 383

Introduced by Flood, 19.

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2011, President Barack Obama submitted to the United States Senate the nomination of Nebraska Supreme Court Judge John M. Gerrard to the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, at Judge Gerrard's confirmation hearing before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, both of Nebraska's United States Senators, Sen. Ben Nelson and Sen. Mike Johanns, spoke in favor of his nomination; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2011, the United States Senate voted 74-16 to confirm Judge Gerrard to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard is a native of Schuyler, Nebraska, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University, a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Arizona, and his law degree from Pacific McGeorge School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard has served as a private attorney, a city attorney, and as counsel to several public schools in Nebraska while engaged in the general practice of law in Norfolk from 1981 through 1995; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard was appointed by Governor Ben Nelson to the Nebraska Supreme Court in 1995, the youngest person ever appointed to the state supreme court bench; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard has received numerous honors and awards in connection with his public service on the Nebraska Supreme Court, including the Nebraska State Bar Foundation's Legal Pioneer Award for leading initiatives promoting racial and ethnic fairness in 2009, the Nebraska Judicial System's Distinguished Judge for Improvement of Judicial System Award in 2006, the Nebraska College of Law Black Students Association's, Outstanding Community Leader Award for contributions to legal diversity in 2005, and Nebraska Wesleyan University's Alumni Achievement Award in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard has tirelessly served on Nebraska Supreme Court committees, including the Minority and Justice Committee and Interpreter Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard has been active and involved in the community, through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Northeast Nebraska, City Impact, Lincoln People's City Mission, Lincoln Youth Track Club, Meals on Wheels, the Robert Van Pelt American Inns of Court, and the Southeast Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard enjoys presentations to the public, particularly to high school and college groups, that educate others and demystify the justice system; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gerrard is a respected jurist and legal scholar and the author of more than 480 opinions for the Nebraska Supreme Court.

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

1. That the Nebraska Legislature congratulates Judge John M. Gerrard on his confirmation as United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska and his outstanding career on the Nebraska Supreme Court.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Judge John M. Gerrard.