

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 249**

Introduced by Krist, 10.

WHEREAS, Robert N. "Bob" Swanson was a true gentleman and a great American. He grew up in Wausa and joined the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Bob served as a machinist on the USS Piedmont, a destroyer tender built during World War II, until mustering out in 1965; and

WHEREAS, after 37½ years with Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Bob retired as a vice president and began volunteering at American Legion Omaha Post 1; and

WHEREAS, Bob was an active member of the American Legion for 13 years and also served as the Commander of Omaha Post 1; and

WHEREAS, as an avid motorcyclist, Bob served as the Post Commander on two occasions for the American Legion Riders and was the driving force and strength behind organizing the Riders program in 39 chapters across Nebraska, which has 1,100 members currently serving as honor guards for members of the military to and from deployment, as well as serving at funerals, in parades, and other events; and

WHEREAS, Bob created tribute signs for our troops and made personal arrangements with the Nebraska Department of Roads in 2013 for their installation at all of the 23 rest areas along Interstate 80. The 24 by 36 inch, metal signs read "Nebraska Honors Our Troops" and "Thank You For Your Service" and display the logos of the 5 branches of service; and

WHEREAS, Bob started a fundraising drive, which raised over \$15,000 for a new flag pole in Pilger after the town was devastated by a supercell that produced four EF4 tornadoes in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Bob had the idea of a memorial chair at Werner Park, which would

be decorated with the POW/MIA emblem to promote their remembrance. After Bob received approval for the memorial chair by contacting the Werner Park president, he helped with the necessary fundraising efforts; and

WHEREAS, Bob's projects and tireless support for veterans helped secure the 236-acre Omaha National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Bob was one of the Salvation Army's most faithful bell ringers at Christmas for many years; and

WHEREAS, Bob epitomized service and leadership when it came to veterans; and

WHEREAS, Bob was selflessly dedicated to others and will be remembered by his wife of 41 years, Marolyn; his daughters, Cindy Siadek of Omaha and Danya Gutierrez of Los Angeles; his sister, Bonita Rosen of Wausa; and his grandchildren, Jake and Abby Siadek; and

WHEREAS, Bob passed away from injuries sustained on his motorcycle due to a mechanical failure.

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

1. That the Legislature offers its condolences to the family and friends of Robert N. Swanson.

2. That the Legislature offers its gratitude to Robert N. Swanson for his years of service and tireless support for veterans.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Robert N. Swanson and American Legion Omaha Post 1.