

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 102

Introduced by Howard, 9.

WHEREAS, Thomas Rogers Kimball was born April 19, 1862 in Linwood, Ohio, moved to Omaha with his family in 1871, and graduated from Omaha High School in 1878; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Rogers Kimball continued his study in architecture and fine arts at the University of Nebraska, the Cowles School of Art in Boston, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris before co-founding the publishing firm Bates and Kimball; and

WHEREAS, Bates and Kimball founded, edited, and published the Technology Architectural Review for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a predecessor to The Architectural Review, an industry magazine still in circulation today; and

WHEREAS, after forming the Boston architectural partnership Walker and Kimball, Thomas Rogers Kimball and his wife Annie returned to Nebraska, becoming involved in the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the Omaha Civic League, the Association of Professional Men's Clubs, and the Omaha Club; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Rogers Kimball first attained national prominence when his partnership was selected as architect in chief of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha. He went on to design many notable Nebraska buildings on his own, including St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, the Hall County Courthouse in Grand Island, the Holdrege Public Library, the Omaha World-Herald Building, the Burlington Station in Omaha, and the Omaha Country Club; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Rogers Kimball was recognized for his architectural achievements with election to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows and was the first Nebraskan to serve as national president of the

American Institute of Architects for 1919-1920; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Rogers Kimball's greatest and most enduring contribution to Nebraska was his service as professional advisor for the Capitol Commission, where he administered the construction of the state capitol, retaining his position for 14 years, from 1919 to 1932; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Rogers Kimball pioneered a double-blind competition process to choose an architect for the state capitol, keeping the names of both the jurors and competing architectural firms anonymous, thereby encouraging the nation's top architectural firms to compete without the potential for corruption, political patronage, or cronyism. This process is still used as the standard for architectural competitions; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Rogers Kimball was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 2019 by the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the family of Thomas Rogers Kimball on his induction into the Nebraska Hall of Fame.
2. That copies of this resolution be sent to the family of Thomas Rogers Kimball and to the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission.