

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 70

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

WHEREAS, the Bobby Douglas Legacy Award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the Black wrestling community and the longstanding commitment to inspiring, connecting, and empowering Black wrestlers through attitude, words, and actions; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edmonson posthumously earned the 2024 Bobby Douglas Legacy Award; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Joe broke his neck in a trampoline accident making him a quadriplegic and was told he would only live for ten more years, but, in 1968, Joe started his own wrestling program while earning his master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Joe also developed the nationally respected Exploradories and ran the Edmonson Youth Outreach Center of the YMCA to provide opportunities for inner-city youth to be mentored and to learn about wrestling; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Joe earned many awards and recognition, including reaching the Gold level certification in the National Coaches Education Program, being named USA Wrestling's 1985 Kids Person of the Year, being named a Point of Light by George H. W. Bush in 1991, and being named to the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Joe's impact on wrestling and his community is not forgotten and has been revived through posthumously earning the Bobby Douglas Legacy Award.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Joe Edmonson and the family of Joe Edmonson on posthumously earning the 2024 Bobby Douglas Legacy Award.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Joe Edmonson.