

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 614

Introduced by Adams, 24.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission was established in 1961 to officially recognize and honor prominent Nebraskans, including people who were born in Nebraska, who gained prominence while living in Nebraska, or who lived in Nebraska and whose residence in Nebraska was an important influence on their lives and contributed to their greatness; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2014, the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission will assemble in the Warner Chamber of the State Capitol together with guests and dignitaries to induct Alvin Saunders Johnson into the Nebraska Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Johnson, a Nebraska native, gained national and international recognition as an economist, educator, humanitarian, social activist, writer, and editor; and

WHEREAS, Johnson was born in 1874 on a farm near Homer, Nebraska, and grew up embracing the values and work ethic of farm life. At age 18 he enrolled at the University of Nebraska where he received both his bachelor and master's degrees in the classics, and pursued graduate work in economics at Columbia University where he received his Ph.D. in 1902; and

WHEREAS, Johnson co-founded and for 22 years led the New School for Social Research, which is today recognized as the model for adult education in America. Within the New School, Johnson founded the University in Exile as a haven for refugee European intellectuals fleeing Nazi persecution; and

WHEREAS, Johnson served as editor of the initial "Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences," was a leader in framing our nation's first nondiscrimination legislation, was an editor of "The New Republic," and was also a prolific writer, authoring two novels, three collections of short stories, and an autobiography in addition to his influential academic writing; and

WHEREAS, Johnson credited the values instilled in him to living and studying in Nebraska, to his father and mother being strong believers in racial and social equality, and to his mother having a deep appreciation of classical literature. These traits were passed on to Johnson from early childhood and became the foundation for his intellectual fabric, his work ethic, and his extraordinary influence on American culture and intellectual life; and

WHEREAS, each of Johnson's career highlights could be independently judged as exemplary. Collectively, they reflect the life of a remarkable individual of whom Nebraskans can be justifiably proud.

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

1. That the Legislature posthumously honors and recognizes Alvin Saunders Johnson for his induction into the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission.