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Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Dinner

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Bad News & Good News.

- Good News - the Low Betty light is ON
- BAD NEWS! - I've got the microphone!
Maybe "Academy Awards"!

NEBRASKA HALL OF AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT DINNER

APRIL 13, 2002

YORK, NEBRASKA

JOHN C. OWENS

NU VICE PRESIDENT AND HARLAN VICE CHANCELLOR, IANR

What a treat to be here tonight to celebrate the achievements of some "wonderful-new-additions" to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. I can think of few-experiences more-gratifying than those in which we get to say a heartfelt "well-done, and thank you" to people who make "significant-contributions" to the world around them by the way they live their lives and by the places they choose to put their talents and energies.

I want to congratulate Dick Mercer and Max Waldo for being this year's esteemed honorees. Thank you for all each of you has done to represent agriculture in such meaningful ways. I also applaud the past honorees who are with us tonight, and thank each of you for all you continue to do to tell agriculture's story in Nebraska and beyond. I thank each of you named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in the past, also, for your ongoing support and championing of Nebraska agriculture. In my job I'm continually aware of the need to preserve and improve Nebraska agriculture, the goal of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, and I am continually appreciative of those of you who

work so well to keep Nebraska agriculture strong. I applaud your vision, your wisdom, and your determination.

Now, it is my very-great pleasure to introduce to you the newest members of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. Time limitations prevent me from detailing their many, many accomplishments, but I am pleased to be able to tell you just a few of the tremendous things they do and have done. This year's new Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement members are:

*State Senator Milton L. "Cap" Dierks of Ewing, who represents Nebraska's 40th district in the unicameral and is chair of the Agricultural Committee. Dr. Dierks has been called a champion of causes and issues related to agriculture and rural Nebraska, and has been a senator in the legislature since 1986. A practicing veterinarian and rancher, he is past-president of the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association and a past recipient of that organization's Veterinarian of the Year award. The Arc of Nebraska named him its 2001 Harold Sieck Public Official of the Year.

*Rod Gangwish of Shelton is president of the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska, and I enjoy working with Rod so much in that position. He has worked with the University and the Institute on many committees and task forces, such as the President's Advisory Council and as chair of the Nebraska Agricultural

Leadership Council. And listen to this: President of Nebraska Corn Growers, President of National Corn Growers Association, represented the National Corn Growers Association in developing policy and legislation for GATT, NAFTA, and the 1996 Farm Bill – these are all among Rod's accomplishments. A recognized spokesperson for agriculture, Rod is a farmer/feeder who is extremely active in his community and a tireless supporter of agriculture.

HE'S ALSO THE NATIONAL POSTERBOY FOR THE COUNCIL FOR BIOTECH BIOLOGY INFORMATION.

*Dean Glock, Omaha, retired this year from his position as the executive vice president overseeing the real estate department of Farmers National Company, where he began work in 1962. An advocate for appropriate use of technology in farming, he's past-president of the Nebraska Chapter of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. He has received the "Outstanding Service to the Chapter" Award from the Nebraska Chapter, and an Honorary American Farmer Degree from the national FFA. A member of many organizations and past-president of the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, he helped start ~~the~~ the 4-H/FFA Annual Golf Benefit that raises an average of \$40,000 a year that is divided between the two foundations.

*Robert Klein, North Platte, started his career as a county agent in Red Willow County, and is credited with the high energy and vision necessary to take programs to new levels of achievement. He was one of the first to recognize the

value of ecofallow on non-irrigated crops; today it's estimated the current acreage involved in the ecofarming system in Nebraska is over 2 million acres, adding at least \$25 per acre per year, resulting in over \$50,000,000 per year in ~~the~~ ^{our} state. He developed methods to evaluate spray patterns of ground application equipment, and started the Nebraska series of Crop EXPO's now called Corn/Soybean Production and Marketing Workshops. We are so happy to have him as a member of the IANR team.

*Alan Moeller, Lincoln, is assistant vice chancellor for finance and personnel at IANR, and working with Alan is one of the real joys of my position at the University of Nebraska. Not only is he a fount of useful information, his insights into the workings of the University, the state, and the Legislature have been extremely helpful to me in my first 16 months on the job. I respect him greatly, and I know that respect is shared on the University of Nebraska campus and in the Legislature. Alan serves as a primary contact for state senators and state government representatives for the university on matters relating to agriculture and natural resources, and consistently seeks what is best for Nebraska, agriculture, and the Institute. He was key in developing the cooperative agreement between the University of Nebraska and Kansas State University for training students in veterinary medicine; he developed and successfully led the strategy to fund the

renovation of East Campus greenhouses; and he provided leadership, coordination, and direction to obtain "state-matching funds" for the George W. Beadle Center, to name "a few" of the things he has done for agriculture and Nebraska.

REGIER

*Kenneth Regier, Aurora, is in crop-production agriculture. Involved in a "number" of local and state organizations, his work in the Farmer Cooperative System is for the "financial-benefit" of farmers. In the Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District, where he has been on the board since 1978, he is "an advocate" for "responsible-stewardship" of land and water resources. Currently he serves on the board of directors for Minnesota Corn Processors, and has since 1992. He is a past "recipient" of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Ag Leadership Award, and the Nebraska Agribusiness Club's "Public Service" to Agriculture award.

*Kate Sullivan of Cedar Rapids is the marketing officer and board secretary of Cedar Rapids State Bank; president of Kokes Corporation family farm and ranch operation near Ord, and vice president of BlueStem Beef, Inc., a consumer-direct beef business. An alumna of the Nebraska LEAD program, she was named Outstanding LEAD Alum in 1998. In 1999 she received the College of Human Resources and Family Sciences' Outstanding Community Service award. I am pleased to note that Kate has early career "roots" with IANR that "include" roles with the then-Department of Agricultural Communications and Cooperative Extension.

Known for her concern and her commitment to the future of rural Nebraska, she is dedicated to building, maintaining, and growing businesses in the rural areas of Nebraska. She was chair of the strategy team for Nebraska Network 21, a major Kellogg-funded grant aimed at reconnecting the land grant university and its constituency.

*Raymond Ward of Kearney is an agronomist with an emphasis in soil fertility and crop nutrition. A fellow in the American Society of Agronomy, Dr. Ward is owner/manager of Ward Laboratories Inc., one of the Midwest's larger agricultural testing laboratories that serves producers and agricultural companies across the nation. His laboratory is known for its quality soil fertility information, accuracy, and attention to detail. It employs 30 people and processes more than 132,000 samples a year. The recipient of many civic and professional honors, Ray is active in educational programs, making more than 50 presentations yearly and providing consultation to hundreds of crop consultants, fertilizer dealers, ranchers, and farmers. He has been especially active in nitrogen-management research and education, cooperating with Natural Resources Districts across Nebraska. Dr. Ward works with the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture to provide students with invaluable, hands-on experiences. He provides laboratory school tours for elementary-age pupils, provides high school students with shadowing-

experiences, and is active in regional career fairs.

*John Witkowski of Wayne is director of IANR's Northeast Research and Extension Center, and was – this may make us both feel a bit older, John – my first graduate student when I was a faculty member at Iowa State University. The Northeast Research and Extension Center, headquartered at ^{Norfolk} Norfolk, includes the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory at Concord. John spent "much" of his academic career as an entomologist located at the NEREC near Concord, where he "developed and maintained a successful research and extension education program on integrated pest management in field corn" for 25 years. He also co-developed and delivered a "comprehensive" education and training program on "chemigation" for control of insect pests in corn. In 1995 he was a USDA "Honor Awardee" for Superior Service.

IN 1996, HE WAS AWARDED ^{###} THE GAMMA SIGMA DELTA
"DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE" AWARD OF
MERIT.

TO EACH OF YOU NEW MEMBERS OF "the Nebraska
Hall of Agricultural Achievement" – Congratulations!

Program: "The motto"

"MY LIGHT IS NOVE THE LESS" FOR LIGHTING THAT
OF MY NEIGHBOR.