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Tribute to Curt Bromm

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TRIBUTE TO CURT BROMM
NOVEMBER 6, 2003

Since "growing up" on the family farm, Curt Bromm has continued to maintain a "strong interest" in agriculture and education as he developed his "legal practice" in Wahoo and embarked on a career in public-service as a State Senator.

Curt Bromm was born at Oakland and graduated from Tekamah High School. He continued his education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he received his baccalaureate degree in agriculture and then a law degree. Curt served as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army.

A past president and member of the Wahoo School Board for 11 years, Curt served as "chair" of the Saunders County School Reorganization Board. He also "served" on the Wahoo Start Committee for physician recruitment, was a member of the Greater Wahoo Development Foundation, and a director of Wahoo Industries. He also was founding director of the Saunders County Youth Service System and "served" on the Governor's Water Council.

He is a veteran-member of the Community Liaison Committee of the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead,

which is operated by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Curt keeps up to date on major agricultural research and extension-education projects at the Center, and he provides critical input into the future direction of projects.

Senator Bromm is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and former-member and chair of the Association's Ethics Committee. ~~He also is a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.~~

His career in state government began with election to the Nebraska Legislature in 1992, followed by re-election in 1996 and 2000. Senator Bromm has served as a member and chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee and a member of the Natural Resources, Rules, and Redistricting committees. In 2002, he was elected Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature.

Since assuming the role of Speaker, he has been a major leader in the Legislature's efforts to find solutions to the budgetary crisis facing our state. Early in the process, he made it clear that while all state spending needed to be examined for reductions, all departments and agencies had to be a part of the solution.

HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT

spending on education, K-12 and higher education, needed to remain a state priority for NEBRASKA'S FUTURE.

In his role as speaker during the past two years, Senator Bromm was able to bring together disparate forces in the Legislature and to "negotiate" a solution to the budget impasses. The final budget products of the Legislature "clearly" show his influence. Senator Bromm has been a staunch defender of programs that help Nebraska's agribusiness enterprises "survive and prosper," including teaching, research, and extension-education programs of the University of Nebraska.

During the 2003 session of the Nebraska Legislature, Speaker Bromm provided "yeoman-service" to Nebraskans by building a "consensus" that education must be a priority. This had positive implications for K-12 education and post-secondary education. His leadership resulted in a budget that avoided extreme reductions which would have "severely-impaired" the future of the University of Nebraska, our state, and the agricultural industry.

Many of us have had the opportunity to "observe" Senator Bromm's dedication to public service during his years as a legislator

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and as a member of the Wahoo community. He has long demonstrated a strong commitment to the State of Nebraska as a whole and to Nebraska agriculture in particular. Senator Bromm also understands the importance of public higher education to the future of Nebraska. He should be encouraged and rewarded across our state for the positive-values he portrays.

It is a distinct-honor to present this Public Service to Agriculture Award to Senator Curt Bromm in recognition of his strong commitment to K-12 education, to higher education, including the University of Nebraska and its Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to Nebraska agriculture, and to the future of our state.