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Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Dinner

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"CHARLIE"

90th BIRTHDAY
HALL

Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Dinner
April 21, 2007
Nebraska East Union
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

90th BIRTHDAY
DAIRY STORE

It is my pleasure to be with you tonight celebrating the accomplishments of these wonderful and worthy new-additions to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to help recognize these individuals who are so deserving of their honors. What a pleasure to say, "well done and thank you" to people who make such significant-contributions to the world, who live their lives meaningfully in the way they choose to put their talents and their energies to work.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate this year's esteemed honoree, former State Senator Ed Schrock. Progress on Nebraska water law is credited to Ed, who co-chairs the Nebraska Water Policy Task Force and is a member of the Water Resources Advisory Panel at UNL. We salute you, Ed, for being among the strongest advocates for agriculture while never losing sight of other Nebraska interests.

Let me also applaud the past honorees here tonight. I thank each of you for all you continue to do to tell agriculture's remarkable story in

Nebraska and beyond. I also sincerely thank each of you here tonight who already has been named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. Thank you for your ongoing work and for championing Nebraska agriculture.

The people I am in contact with through my own work constantly keep me aware of the need to preserve, to support, and to improve Nebraska agriculture. I continually appreciate each person who works so very hard to keep Nebraska agriculture strong -- strong and productive. Your determination, your wisdom, and your vision are vital to us all.

Now it is my great pleasure to introduce you to the newest members of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. I am privileged to provide you these very brief glimpses that reflect a small part of what all these people do and have accomplished. It is my pleasure to introduce this year's new Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement members.

-- C.G. "Kelly" Holthus of York, Chair, President, and CEO of Cornerstone Banks, ^{President of} has served as President of the American Bankers Association and the Nebraska Bankers Association. His service to numerous philanthropic boards and foundations include the University of Nebraska Foundation, the Nebraska Community Foundation, the

Concordia University Foundation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council (LEAD). Kelly is a strong, "steady voice" for Nebraska agriculture.

-- Greg A. Ibach of Sumner has directed the Nebraska Department of Agriculture since 2005 and was Assistant Director for six years prior to assuming the Director position in the Governor's Cabinet. Greg has spent "most of his life" working the family farm and, with help of his family, "continues" his cow/calf and grain operation. Greg earlier worked for Farm Credit Services as a Loan Officer and then as Assistant Vice President. He is a member of numerous ag organizations and has been involved in "successful trade-missions" to Europe, Asia, and Cuba.

-- Michael B. Jacobson, a North Platte banker, grew up on a grain and livestock farm in south central Nebraska. Mike was a vocational agriculture instructor before becoming involved in banking management. In 1998, he provided "leadership" to charter the NebraskaLand National Bank at North Platte where he is Chairman, President, and CEO. He also is Chairman and CEO of Commerce Bank of Wyoming, in Rock Springs, Wyoming, chartered in 2006. Mike's "service record" includes being past

president of the North Platte Public Schools Foundation Board and past president of the Great Plains Health Care Foundation Board. He is President-elect of the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska.

-- Michael C. LePorte, of Elwood, is Farm Director of KRVN radio in Lexington and the Nebraska Rural Radio Network. He previously held broadcast positions in Kansas and Iowa, where he farmed for 10 years, and ^{experience} that contributes to his depth of knowledge about agriculture. During Mike's 17 years at KRVN, it has been the top-rated ag station in the nation in its market. He has earned honors from the American Soybean Association, Nebraska Agribusiness Association, Nebraska Soybean Association, and Ak-Sar-Ben. Mike also has been a member of five foreign trade missions and is widely-known for telling the worst jokes in the history of Nebraska!

-- Barton D. Ruth of Rising City was a UNL regents scholar who graduated in 1981 and currently farms and resides on the original 1878 family homestead. Barton is active with the American Soybean Association Board of Directors, Nebraska Soybean Association Board of Directors, which he served as President; the Nebraska Agricultural Legal Foundation;

and others. He has traveled internationally several times in the interest of agriculture, including spending two months in Europe for the Eisenhower Fellowship for Agriculture. Barton also has testified before Congress. ^{THE UNITED STATES}

-- Steven S. Waller, Dean of UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, joined the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1978 as Associate Professor of agronomy. In 2002, I had the good fortune of appointing Dr. Waller as CASNR Dean. Steve's leadership has resulted in ^{SEVERAL} new undergraduate ^{PROGRAMS} including professional golf management, a companion animal option, an equine option, a hospitality and tourism management major, ^{OTHER NEW} ~~and~~ majors in Insect Science, Forensic Science, and Food Technology for Companion Animals. He also has implemented creative student recruitment initiatives ^{greatly} and improved student advising. For his contributions ^{to students}, the UNL Parents Association has honored Steve five times. ^{separate} — " STUDENT-CENTERED " DEAN

-- Jerry A. Warner grew up on a farm near Arapahoe. This UNL graduate taught for several years before launching a career in Omaha in 1972 with Farmers National Company, where he has served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Management Officer. Jerry has a

"progressive policy" for farm management, with an emphasis toward value-added crops. He serves as "Chair" of the Eastern Nebraska Advisory Board for the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center, and on many other UNL-related boards and committees. UNL has "honored" Jerry several times for his impact in helping urban youth understand the role of agriculture in their lives.

-- Jeanene Wehrbein of Plattsmouth is "Executive Director" of the Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce. Earlier she was editor of the Plattsmouth Journal and was women's director at KOTD radio station. A "founding member" of the Nebraska Community Foundation Board, Jeanene "promotes" local economic activity. She was a 4-H Club leader for nearly 20 years and has served on "numerous" home extension councils and 4-H Foundation boards. Jeanene's "numerous awards" include Nebraska Cattle Woman of the Year.

THIS NEXT IF ROY ATTENDS. -- Our next honoree actually was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement last year, but was unable to attend. At this time, we recognize Roy Dinsdale of Palmer, "Chairman" of Pinnacle Bankcorp Inc. The family's banking ventures began

in small rural communities where they are characterized¹ ~~for~~^{by} their strong commitment and support of local and civic projects. Roy serves on several boards, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Omaha National Bank, and First National Bank in Grand Island. He also is a member of the UNL President's Club, the Cornhusker Beef Council, and chairman of various bank boards. Farming and cattle feeding are a big part of Roy's life.

Please join me once again in congratulating the 2007 additions to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.