

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

A Resolution honoring Mr. Harold "Tommy"

Thompson upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the Iowa Communications Network.

WHEREAS, Mr. Harold "Tommy" Thompson has had a long and distinguished career of service to the citizens of the State of Iowa, highlighted by serving as State Project Coordinator for the Papal Visit in 1979,

spearheading the Statewide Recovery Task Force associated with the farm crisis in 1985, chairing the Iowa Flood Recovery Task Force from 1993 through 1995, and serving as the Executive Director of the Iowa 2010 Project aimed at improving the quality of life in Iowa by the year 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson served in the Iowa National Guard for over 40 years, and formerly held the position of Deputy Adjutant General; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson has served as the Executive Director of the Iowa Communications Network since its inception in 1994; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Thompson's leadership, the Iowa Communications Network has become the largest fully automated full motion video network in the world, providing advanced services to education, state and federal government, library, telemedicine, and telejustice users; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson's commitment to integrating technologies to enhance Iowa's quality of life has resulted in reducing the digital divide which

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1 previously isolated rural communities in the state and
2 has assured authorized users of the Iowa
3 Communications Network low-cost access to network
4 services; and

5 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Iowa
6 Communications Network, Mr. Thompson created the
7 network structure, completed the Part III connections
8 to school districts and libraries bringing the total
9 number of classrooms connected to the network to 754,
10 and made substantial progress toward the completion of
11 a major network upgrade and increase in services; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson's vision and stewardship have
13 brought the Iowa Communications Network alive for
14 thousands of students and citizens of the State of
15 Iowa, opening up opportunities for learning and access
16 to needed services which would otherwise not exist;
17 NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate of
19 the State of Iowa pay tribute to Mr. Harold "Tommy"
20 Thompson for his outstanding accomplishments on behalf
21 of, and devoted service to, the Iowa Communications
22 Network and the citizens of this state, and, upon his
23 retirement, wish him health and happiness in the years
24 ahead; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
26 this Resolution be prepared and presented to Mr.
27 Harold "Tommy" Thompson.

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