

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 46

Introduced by Coash, 27.

WHEREAS, John G. Boosalis, a gunner in the United States Navy during World War II, along with a pilot and a radioman, crashed into the Pacific Ocean on February 27, 1943 when their airplane engine failed; and

WHEREAS, upon crashing into the ocean, John and the other two crew members launched a rubber life raft and were able to take a small number of sundry articles before their plane sank; and

WHEREAS, John spent two days and two nights in the life raft rowing toward an island approximately 25 miles in the distance; and

WHEREAS, during these two days and two nights in the life raft, John endured sunburn, lack of water, long hours of rowing, and badly blistered hands; and

WHEREAS, on the third day, John and his crew landed on Erromango Island where they were able to find stagnant water to drink and fruit and crab to eat; and

WHEREAS, while on the island, John and his crew befriended several people living on the island who were able to provide them with additional food and water; and

WHEREAS, while on the island, John suffered swollen and blistered feet, endured festering sores on his body, and contracted malaria and was ill for several days; and

WHEREAS, a rancher from Australia who lived on the other end of the island was able to radio naval headquarters about the location of John and the two other crew members; and

WHEREAS, after spending nearly a month on Erromango Island, John was returned to his Navy squadron.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes and thanks John G. Boosalis for his service and sacrifice while serving in the United States Navy during World War II.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to John G. Boosalis.