

STATE OF NEBRASKA

John A. Gale
Secretary of State

News Release

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Civic engagement by young people is theme of new video

Lincoln – The sacrifices of Nebraska veterans who served our nation in foreign wars provide the inspiration for a new video that is designed to encourage young people to vote.

The Nebraska secretary of state's office produced the 45-minute videocassette as part of its Vote in Honor of a Veteran program.

"By telling the experiences of Nebraska veterans who protected our country and the freedoms we cherish, we hope our young people will be able to personalize the importance of being an active citizen and lifelong voter," Secretary of State John Gale said.

The video features the heroic story of Bernard W. Nider of Lincoln, who was one of the first liberators to reach the hard-fought Omaha Beach at Normandy, France, on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The video shows Nider recounting his story before students at Lincoln Northeast High School.

The video also includes comments by Gale and Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, adjutant general of the Nebraska Military Department, that add perspective to the historic D-Day invasion.

"Bernie Nider exemplifies the spirit of American democracy," Gale said. "It is because of men and women like him that we continue to enjoy our treasured freedoms. We have a debt to his generation that we can never repay, but we can make installments by being good citizens and by voting."

Copies of the video were distributed recently to high schools, county clerks and election commissioners, and county veterans service officers in Nebraska. The video is designed for civics, social studies and history classes as well as for veterans groups and community organizations.

The video's distribution was timed to coincide with the observance of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, but it would be appropriate to use the video at anytime of the year.

"We believe we have created an exciting educational tool that will help connect the lessons of history books with our living democracy," Gale said.

The video was made with the cooperation of Nebraska Educational Television. Martha Florence of NETV was the producer.

People interested in using the video for a program should contact their local county clerk, election commissioner or county veterans service officer.