

JOHN A. GALE

Nebraska Secretary of State

(402) 471-2554

www.sos.ne.gov

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Contact: Gary Seacrest

(402) 471-8408, gary.seacrest@nebraska.gov

Three leaders to be honored at Statehood Day Dinner

LINCOLN – The NEBRASKAland Foundation will honor three prominent Nebraskans with achievement awards at the Statehood Day Dinner on March 3 at the State Capitol.

Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Awards will be presented to Ken Gnadts of Grand Island, David Karnes of Omaha and Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth.

Gnadts has been an active force in government and civic affairs in central Nebraska.

Serving as Grand Island mayor from 1994-2002, Gnadts was instrumental in securing the Interstate 80 South Locust interchange, instituting the Wood River Flood Control Project, building the Heartland Events Center and preserving the Case-IH manufacturing plant. He has been active in Rotary, the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Husker Harvest Days, the Stuhr Museum and the relocation of the Nebraska State Fair to Grand Island.

Karnes has had a distinguished career in the practice of law, business and government service.

Karnes has been with the Kutak Rock law firm since 1989 and has served on the board of directors of numerous companies. He is a former U.S. senator from Nebraska, and his federal government experience includes positions with the Federal Home Loan Bank, White House and U.S. Advisory Committee on Trade and Negotiations. He has been involved in a wide range of civic organizations, including founding Liz's Legacy Fund for cancer research.

Wehrbein has displayed outstanding political and civic leadership for Nebraska and his community.

Wehrbein served 20 years in the Nebraska Legislature and was a longtime Appropriations Committee chairman. He has been an avid supporter of higher education, economic development, ethanol and wind energy. A farmer and livestock producer, he has been a strong advocate of agriculture.

The mission of the NEBRASKAland Foundation is to promote Nebraska and the state's "good life."

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