For Release
February 14, 2013

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Lincoln Journal Star receives Civics Recognition Award

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale has awarded the last of three Civics Recognition Awards to *the Lincoln Journal Star*, for its outstanding coverage of the 2012 general election. The award was presented today to Dave Bundy, editor and Shelly Kulhanek, assistant city editor.

"When it took office in 2000, one of my goals was to increase voter turnout in presidential general elections," said Gale. "While candidates and campaigns regularly supply a certain amount of information, by and large, most voters get their information through media sources. That's why we rely on outlets like the *Lincoln Journal Star* to provide accurate and nonbiased information to voters and it's good to recognize them when they excel in that capacity."

While the paper endorsed Bob Kerrey in the campaign for U.S. Senate, Gale said that it was careful to give prominent coverage to both candidates from the primary through the general election.

He also took note of the blog that the *Lincoln Journal Star* hosted on its website Election Day. "That's important as we enter a world in which social media plays a more significant role in how people get their information. That blog kept voters updated as to situations at the polls, voter turnout, posted pictures and other items of interest throughout that day."

The Civics Recognition Award has been given by the Secretary of State's office since 2008. It serves to acknowledge those efforts by individuals, organizations and media outlets to educate, engage and encourage voter participation throughout Nebraska.

This year, there were three winners. In addition to the *Lincoln Journal Star*, KOLN/KGIN television and the Nebraska Radio Network were also recognized.

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