

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1826

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Joseph Blecha and Kathleen Murray.

WHEREAS, Joseph Blecha of Munden, a junior at Belleville High School, and Kathleen Murray of Leawood, an eighth-grader at Leawood Middle School, have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by receiving a 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious award, presented by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities. They will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, D.C. May 5-8, 2001, for a series of recognition events as well as an opportunity to be named one of the 10 top youth volunteers for 2001; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Blecha earned this award by collecting data from more than 500 tombstones in a local cemetery as part of a nationwide effort to make genealogical information available on the internet. He spent several months determining the name of the deceased, date of birth and death, marital status, family information, military service history and the gravestone inscription, and after collecting this data uploaded it onto the web site; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Murray conducted a scientific research project on lead poisoning. Her research determined that vegetables grown in inner-city communities around older homes could be contaminated with lead making them unsafe to eat. Additionally, she was able to show that vitamin C reduced the levels of lead in worms. Her findings have been published by Kansas State University in the United States and in Russia; and

WHEREAS, The success of the state of Kansas, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Joseph Blecha and Kathleen Murray who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Joseph Blecha and Kathleen Murray upon being selected as Kansas' top two youth volunteers for 2001 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Joseph Blecha, c/o David and Retha Blecha, RR#1, Box 11, Munden, Kansas 66959-9611 and to Kathleen Murray, c/o Daniel and Patricia Murray, 4404 West 130th Street, Leawood, Kansas 66209-2356.

Senate Resolution No. 1826 was sponsored by Senators Janis K. Lee and John L. Vratil.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.