

SENATE RESOLUTION No.1809

A RESOLUTION congratulating Ottawa City Manager Richard Nienstedt as the 2011 recipient of the Buford Watson, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management.

WHEREAS, During the 2011 annual conference of the Kansas Association of City/County Management, Ottawa City Manager Richard Nienstedt was the 2011 recipient of the Buford Watson, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management. The Buford Watson, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management was established in 1980 and is awarded annually by the Kansas Association of City/County Management to a local government manager who has displayed the attributes of the late Buford M. Watson, Jr., the former city manager of Lawrence, Kansas. Such attributes include service as a role model in dealing with constituents, valuing customer satisfaction and encouraging new members of the profession; and

WHEREAS, Ottawa City Manager Richard Nienstedt embodies the values that city management professionals across Kansas hold dear. Mr. Nienstedt has developed ways to better serve the citizens in the communities he has worked for by enhancing customer service and organizational responsiveness. He has also served as a role model for younger people in the public management profession; and

WHEREAS, Ottawa City Manager Richard Nienstedt has always been a public servant. His commitment to public service began with military service in the United States Air Force. Mr. Nienstedt's desire to make a difference led him to Emporia State University and later to Wichita State University, where he served as a graduate assistant at the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs. Upon graduation from Wichita State University, Mr. Nienstedt served as a management intern for the City of Wichita's Department of Housing and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, From 1980 to 1983, Mr. Nienstedt had the unique pleasure of being one of the last professional managers in Kansas to serve as a "shared" city administrator for two communities at the same time when he served as the city administrator for both the City of Maize, Kansas and City of North Newton, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nienstedt later moved on to manage the City of Stockton, Kansas. From Stockton, Mr. Nienstedt transitioned to the position of city manager of Concordia, Kansas, where he was instrumental in establishing a number of city policies which are still being utilized today; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Mr. Nienstedt was named city manager for the City of Fort Scott, Kansas. On March 11, 2005, a massive fire raged through Fort Scott's historic downtown, in which nine buildings were destroyed. While no one was injured, the fire damage and destruction to the historic downtown was vast. However, Mr. Nienstedt emerged from this tragic community event as a true city leader - Mr. Nienstedt, his staff and the Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce created the Fort Scott Community Visioning Program. Downtown Fort Scott, Kansas is now enjoying the final stages of a remarkable makeover that began under Mr. Nienstedt's leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nienstedt continues to serve as city manager for the City of Ottawa, Kansas, where he began in 2007. He continues to provide the leadership for which he has been known for over 30 years: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate Ottawa City Manager Richard Nienstedt as the 2011 recipient of the Buford Watson, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Apple, Senator Marshall, Mr. Nienstedt and the Kansas Association of City/County Management.

Senate Resolution No.1809 was sponsored by Senators Apple, King and Marshall.

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

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*