

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2013

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Governor Heineman recognizes outstanding volunteer Lt. Colonel Michael DeBolt for his selfless service

Lincoln, Neb. – Lt. Colonel Michael DeBolt was nominated by his daughter Ashley DeBolt because of his active support of diverse causes in the community that have a direct impact on his life. Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem presented Michael with the Governor’s Points of Light adult award on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at the awards ceremony in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln.

When Mike learned that his sister was diagnosed with Huntington’s disease, he worked tirelessly to bring community awareness and create an Omaha Chapter with the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA). This was the first step in helping the University of Nebraska Medical Center gain a Center of Huntington’s Disease Excellence designation and receiving Federal grant dollars. Additionally, he is the race director for an annual run at Lake Zorinsky for the 180 families inflicted with the disease and in 2012 provided a \$12,000 grant to UNMC to help host the first Midwest Symposium on HD. He encourages local schools, retirement homes that specialize in HD, local community and the UNMC caregivers to take part in the walk and picnic. His goals are family support, community outreach, and research dollars. Last year over 350 people attended the event.

As a five time cancer survivor, Mike did not hesitate to support Leukemia Lymphoma Society (LLS) in raising funds. In three short months he developed a run, outdoor concert, letter campaign and an aggressive auction plan to generate \$9,000.

“Mike is bright, creative, engaging, committed, passionate and high-energy; all wonderful characteristics for a volunteer at any level,” said Pattie Gorham Executive Director, Nebraska Chapter, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Currently, Mike is dedicated to raising funds and awareness for the Benson High School JROTC cadets who have been invited to Normandy, France in June of 2014 to participate in the 70th Anniversary Parade of D-Day and represent the State of Nebraska. He has worked countless hours writing grants, putting together fundraisers, writing letters, encouraging students, engaging the local and state community, and elected officials. In four months he has raised \$35,000 towards the students’ goal.

The Governor’s Points of Light awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. To nominate a youth, adult or group who have made a difference through volunteerism and community service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov. The next nomination deadline is December 15, 2013.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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