

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG5790.AM: Dierks, Merton L. "Cap", 1932-

Legislative papers: 1987-2010
Ewing, Holt County, Neb.: Legislator; rancher
Size: 5.0 cu.ft.; 5 boxes

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born on July 2, 1932, in O'Neill, Nebraska, Merton L. "Cap" Dierks graduated from Ewing High School in 1950. He later graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture and served in the U.S. Air Force, (Strategic Air Command), from 1954 to 1956 before earning his D.V.M. from Kansas State University in 1961. Since 1968 he has operated the family's ranching operation near Goose Lake, (35 miles south of O'Neill), as a 5th generation rancher.

Dierks was first elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 1986 and was re-elected in 1990, 1994, and 1998 to represent the 40th Legislative District. Redistricting following the 2000 Census forced him to run against incumbent Doug Cunningham, in a district that was primarily previously represented by Cunningham. Cunningham won the election. When newly enacted term limits prevented Cunningham from seeking re-election in 2006, Dierks ran successfully for the seat. He served on the Agriculture, Committee on Committees, General Affairs, Revenue, and State-Tribal Relations Committees. Dierks ran again in 2010 but was defeated by Tyson Larson.

Prior to being elected to the State Legislature, Dierks served on the Ewing Public Board of Education from 1969 to 1984, and returned to serve briefly on that board again from 2004 to 2006. He has also served on the Board of Directors for St. Anthony's Hospital in O'Neill, a member of the Knights of Columbus, a licensed pilot and is a member of, (and former president of), the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association. Dierks is also a founding member of the Organization for Competitive Markets, as well as the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, and the Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska. Dierks was also an inductee into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in April of 2010 for his efforts in assisting Nebraska farmers and ranchers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of five boxes of papers documenting Dierks' career as a state legislator. The papers date from 1987-2010 and include correspondence, legislative bill files, subject files, reports, newspaper clippings, appointment books, etc. The collection is currently unprocessed but an inventory is available.

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder

1. Class I Schools
2. LB632 Animal ID
3. LB 955 Liquor Control
4. LB 1172 Veterinarian Loan Bill
5. Unicameral Update for 2002
6. Messages to Ewing 2000
7. Joseph Ulrich Case 2001
8. Boyd County
9. BCNW Newspaper Articles 1999
10. BCNW Newspaper Articles 1997
11. Boyd County
12. Nuclear Waste Site Lawsuit
13. Boyd County

Box 2

Folder

1. Boyd County
2. LB 1445
3. Agricultural Hearings June 2, 1993
4. Agricultural Hearings January 19, 1993
5. Agricultural Hearings May 19, 1993
6. 1992 Newspaper Clippings – Legislature
7. Rural Health
8. 13
9. LR 61
10. Agriculture Committee
11. Ag committee LB 211
12. Ag Committee LB 1193
13. Miscellaneous News clippings
14. LB 1367
15. LB 1440
16. Ag committee Workshop Fort Collins, CO

Box 3

Folder

1. District 40
2. Newspaper Clippings
3. Troxell, Russell Burwell, NE
4. LB 1435

5. AIDS task force
6. People to People Ambassador programs
7. Ag committee LR 123
8. Constituent T-Z 1996
9. Ag Committee LB 1049

Box 4
Folder

1. LB 48 1989
2. LB 211 1997
3. I-300
4. Rural Health Stakeholders
5. McEowen, Roger
6. Dierks – Personal
7. Horse Slaughter
8. Letters Sent out of Office
9. Organization for Competitive Markets 2001
10. Foot and Mouth Disease
11. 1987 Newspaper Clippings Legislature
12. 1988 Newspaper Clippings – Legislature
13. 1989 Newspaper Clippings Legislature
14. 1990 Newspaper Clippings – Legislature
15. 1991 Newspaper Clippings – Legislature
16. 1997 Newspaper articles – Legislature
17. 1998 Newspaper articles – Legislature
18. 1999 Newspaper articles – Legislature
19. Dierks, Sen. M.L. (Personal)

Box 5
Folder

1. LB 1381 2000
2. LB 1423 2000
3. LB 1375 2000
4. LB 1417 2000
5. LB 1193
6. Computer Services – Legislature
7. 1997 Committee on Committees Third District Caucus
8. Committee on Committees
9. 1998 Cornhusker Football Request Tickets
10. 1998 Ag committee
11. 1999 Ag Committee
12. Ag Committee Chairs 1999
13. Invitations – Dierks 1996
14. Invitations – Dierks 1997

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15. Schedule Book 2002
16. Ag Committee 96th Leg. 2nd Session Summary and Disposition of legislation referred to the committee
17. 1998 Weekly Appointment Book
18. 1999 Appointment Book
19. 2000 Appointment Book
20. 2001 Appointment Book

TMM/ak 02-06-2012

Added entries:

Dierks, Merton L., 1932-
Legislation -- Nebraska
Legislators -- Nebraska
Nebraska -- Politics and government