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Week of the Juror begins next week

By: Lindsey Tederman

LEXINGTON - One of the most important civic responsibilities of any American is jury duty. Lexington is recognizing this task next week with numerous community activities.

Making it official is Mayor Ted Cook, who will sign a proclamation naming May 8 through 12 "Juror Appreciation Week." The proclamation signing ceremony is from noon to 1 p.m. on May 10 at the Lexington Public Library. Lunch is provided.

Led by Nebraska Chief Justice John Hendry, Governor Dave Heineman and State Bar Association President William Dittrock, this week is part of the statewide campaign, which is touting 2006 "The Year of the Juror."

According to the Nebraska Supreme Court, by serving on a jury, citizens have the privilege of providing direct input into the administration of justice. Their slogan: "It's not fair if you're not there."

Ellen Eby, Dawson County Clerk of the District Court said other community activities include two presentations for Lexington High School students on May 10 and a presentation to the Grass Roots Leadership Development Program on the evening of May 11 at 7 p.m at the Lexington Public Library.

The campaign is to thank jurors for their contribution to the justice system and to promote the representation of people from every ethnicity, race, religion and economic background on juries according to Liz Neely, PhD, project director for the Minority and Justice Implementation Committee.

Neely says everyone's voice in the jury process is needed to ensure fairness and justice in a community. She encourages the public to attend the events to hear from local judges and leaders.

Those local individuals involved in the campaign are Hon. James E. Doyle, IV, District Court; Hon. Carlton E. Clark, County Clerk; Lois Bliven, Clerk Magistrate; Bob Roos, Certified Court Interpreter; and Eby.