

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.R. No. 94

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOFFMAN)

DATE
04/24/2024

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Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring Forster Davis and his contributions to youth soccer in Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Forster Davis began his soccer refereeing career in 1974 in the Fargo/Moorhead area; and

WHEREAS, he began his long career and love of the game of soccer as one of the leading organizers of the first youth soccer program created in the Fargo/Moorhead area. Forster also learned the rules and became a soccer referee; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Northfield, Minnesota, in 1979 he continued to referee youth soccer in the metropolitan area and throughout southern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Forster was among the founding group of officials that signed up to referee a new tournament held at the National Sports Center in Blaine, the Schwan's USA Cup, which would go on to become the largest international youth soccer tournament in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, he refereed between ten and 25 games at the USA Cup every year. By his count, he reached his 600th game at the tournament in 2015 and continued to referee the tournament every summer; and

WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Minnesota State Referee Committee Hall of Fame in 2013 and was honored at the USA Cup Opening Ceremonies in 2017 for his then 30-plus years of service to the tournament; and

WHEREAS, he refereed year round: outdoor soccer in the spring, summer, and fall and indoor soccer in the winter. Nights and weekends, during even the coldest winter days, you could see his yellow car with a surfboard on the roof rack on I-35 headed to the Soccer Blast in Burnsville; and

WHEREAS, following his 80th birthday, he was regularly refereeing more than 15 games and logging over 30 miles on his digital tracker each week. He would always joke, when someone asked him why he refereed, that it was better than running on a treadmill; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Blue Cross Blue Shield featured Forster in a statewide ad campaign, stating "Through his actions, Forster is an inspiration to us all"; and

WHEREAS, he retired from refereeing in 2022, at age 84. He estimated that in his more than 50 years of refereeing he worked at over 10,000 games and ran over 60,000 miles; and

WHEREAS, he was a husband, father, friend, mentor, and guide to many. His humor and dry sarcasm endeared him to most everyone who met him. He would talk to anyone about anything, which served him well over the course of his life; and

WHEREAS, he made a point to know everyone's name, say hello to everyone by name, and send funny cards in appreciation when it felt necessary. Through it all, Forster was a people person and he would love it if others were as well; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it recognizes Forster Davis and his valuable role in the Minnesota youth soccer community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Forster Davis' son, Robert Davis.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Erin P. Murphy
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

John A. Hoffman
State Senator, District 34