STATE OF NEBRASKA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *The Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, Neihardt Foundation, University of Nebraska Press, Nebraska Library Commission and other organizations across the state are urging all citizens of Nebraska to participate in the One Book One Nebraska Reads "Black Elk Speaks" initiative during the year 2017; and*

WHEREAS, *Nebraska author John G. Neihardt was named Nebraska's first Poet Laureate in 1921 by the Nebraska legislature, wrote more than twenty-five books, served as a professor of poetry at the University of Nebraska, worked as a literary editor, and was inducted posthumously into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1974; and*

WHEREAS, *In 1930 on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Nicholas Black Elk met the distinguished Nebraska poet, writer, and critic John G. Neihardt and he asked Neihardt to share his story with the world; and*

WHEREAS, *"Black Elk Speaks" is the story of the Oglala Lakota visionary and healer Nicholas Black Elk (1863–1950) and his people, offering a precious glimpse of a vanished time and Black Elk's searing visions of the unity of humanity and Earth; and*

WHEREAS, *Reading "Black Elk Speaks" in communities across Nebraska in 2017 (our Sesquicentennial year of statehood) provides common ground for Nebraska citizens of all ages to share their common experiences, reflect on the past, and contemplate the future – connecting Nebraskans across time and place.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the year of 2017 as*

ONE BOOK ONE NEBRASKA:
"BLACK ELK SPEAKS"

in Nebraska, and I do hereby encourage all citizens to

- *read "Black Elk Speaks;"*
- *engage in discussion of "Black Elk Speaks;" and*
- *participate in local library and community events throughout Nebraska to celebrate 2017 One Book One Nebraska Reads "Black Elk Speaks."*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Ninth day of January, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen.

Attest:

Secretary of State

Governor