



THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE MISSING IN NEBRASKA

For release: October 2, 2023

Governor Jim Pillen is signing a Nebraska Missing Persons Day Proclamation on October 6, 2023 in the Warner Legislative Chamber at Lincoln's Capitol

Lincoln, Nebraska: It's been nearly 23 years since a 40-year-old mother of three disappeared near downtown Lincoln. Since October 17, 2000, the family of **Gina Bos** has worked tirelessly to find her, and along the way created a network – and a nonprofit – to help bring missing persons home.

"Families of missing persons from Nebraska found each other on social media," said **Jannel Rap**, who started the nonprofit **GINA for Missing Persons FOUNDation, Inc.** (www.411GINA.org). "They realized what they had in common was unusual and decided to join their energies to make a difference for missing Nebraskans."

Their goal: **Nebraska Missing Persons Day.**

"A day of awareness to help the public realize how many Nebraskans are missing, and the heartache of the families who search to bring them home," said Rap, Bos' sister. "This day is a viable way for information to be shared about Nebraska missing persons to generate tips that can potentially solve cases."

Earlier this year, Rap and a coalition of Nebraska families reached out to Governor Pillen for help with the proclamation. A public ceremony will take place in the Warner Legislative Chamber at 9:00 a.m. October 6, 2023.

The group's goal is for the Nebraska Legislature to create an annual day of awareness. Currently, there is no clear path to create a permanent day to distinguish the missing. Rap would like to find a way for this to happen for current and future families of the missing. They need a fixed day each year to tell their story. "We are not asking for a state holiday, just a simple day of recognition."

Since Gina disappeared, Rap has learned that media needs a new piece of information in order to feature a missing persons story, and sometimes a special day is enough. Without a day like this, most long-term missing persons' families will have little chance to get their stories out. Generally speaking, the public assumes if the missing person is not being featured in the news, the person has been found. Nebraska Missing Persons Day would help to bridge that gap and give the families an opportunity to let the public know they are still looking for their loved one.

Rap says, "In my experience, sometimes that moment is all it takes to have tips come in, reopen cold cases, solve cases and bring them home."



“Every missing person is valuable, and is worth being found,” Rap said.

Gina's case is still open.

Emilea Christine's (Flesner) mother, **Marilyn Alexander**, disappeared from Hastings on September 21, 2001. Her family is still looking for her.

Dawn Englebert's 26-year-old son, **Chance Englebert**, disappeared while visiting Gering, on July 6, 2019.

Jason Jolkowski vanished from Omaha on June 13, 2001. He was 19 years old at the time of his disappearance. His mother Kelly has been a strong advocate for the Nebraska missing.

Rodney Longman has been missing since March 14, 1985 from Lincoln.

Christina Loupin's 28-year-old son, **Christopher Loupin**, vanished on November 17, 2019 from Elm Creek Camp Ground.

Eugene McGuire has been missing from Lincoln since January 4, 2004.

Fernando Ortiz-Carreras has been missing from Grand Island since December 16, 2016.

Tressa Price's 7-year-old daughter, **Tarie Price**, disappeared from Gretna on June 11, 2020. Her current age is 9.

For media interviews with family members of missing Nebraskans contact: 714-402-4391.

More information on Nebraska Missing Persons can be found at <https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/services/missing-persons>

###