



Congressman Don Bacon
Second Congressional District of Nebraska

September 29, 2024

Dear family and friends of Leon and Reba Benschoter:

I regret not being here with you today as the City of Omaha ceremonially renames South 32nd Avenue between Frances and Martha Streets "Benschoter Avenue". This is a worthy recognition for two individuals who contributed so much to the Omaha community and the world over the course of their lifetime. As is echoed by many here today, Leon and Dr. Reba Benschoter were trailblazers in their respected careers and benevolent in their charitable endeavors.

Leon first moved his family to Omaha to work at America's first privately-owned color commercial TV station, KMTV. He jumped at an opportunity to establish Omaha's first public television station. KYNE TV. However, he spent most of his career at Creighton University School of Medicine where he founded the Biomedical Communications department, and eventually becoming the Vice President for Health Sciences. After his retirement, he continued to mentor and advocate for students to have access to computer technology across campus.

Dr. Reba Benschoter's career spanned through decades of service to the University of Nebraska Medical Center where she developed and led several departments and institutes. During her time with UNMC, she worked on advancing telemedicine by increasing learning opportunities and services in parts of rural Nebraska. It was Dr. Benschoter's innovative work that made the medical center the birthplace of distance learning and telemedicine. Part of her legacy includes the establishment of a scholarship fund for allied health students.

They were both pioneers in the development and use of digital information and communication technologies to access education and health services. The significance of that today means students and patients across the world can receive the right resources, at the right place, at the right time.

I thank them for their contributions to this state and am honored to know their legacy will live on. Congratulations to the Benschoter family on this recognition!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Bacon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Bacon
Member of Congress