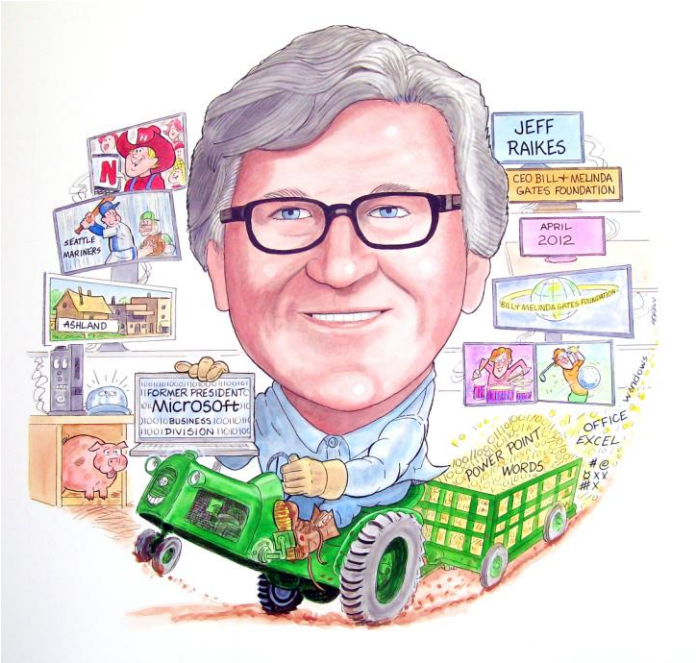

No. 133 Jeff Raikes
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Jeff Raikes can lay claim to the Cardinal color of a Stanford graduate, but he still bleeds Husker Red. And his Nebraska roots keep the Washington state resident and CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation closely connected to the Cornhusker State. "I want you to know that all of our three kids, before the age of 5, were taught to sing 'There Is No Place Like Nebraska," said Raikes.

So it was a homecoming of sorts when Raikes was installed as a Face on the Barroom Floor. That homecoming led roasters back to Ashland, Neb., where tales of a farm boy's athletic, musical and acting talents (or lack of them) – and an alleged streaking incident – spiced the salutes. Ashland banker Mary Fricke Bohn, a Raikes classmate, was emcee for the evening and set a lively pace before a full house that included former Face honorees Warren Buffett, Tom Osborne and Clayton Anderson, all of whom contributed to the roast. Astronaut Anderson, who was one school year behind Raikes in Ashland, told lots of jokes at his friend's expense. But he also offered one of the most heartfelt tributes to Raikes' philanthropy: "As an astronaut, I had the opportunity to fly orbits around the world. But Jeff, you and (wife) Tricia and your family have put your arms around the world."

Doug Burgum, a former Raikes colleague when Raikes was president of the Microsoft Business Division, and David Graf, CEO of Lincoln-based HUDL sports

software, were the high-tech contributors to the roast. Burgum introduced a video of students at UNL's Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management who professed to be unable to identify a picture of their benefactor (Raikes donated $10 million to the school) from faraway Seattle. At last the video crew found a prominent Nebraskan who after some difficulty came up with the correct answer. "He came from a small town near Omaha," Warren Buffet said, "couldn't make a go of farming, headed out west, and I'm not sure what's happened to him since." Graf, who first met Raikes as a UNL student, said the Microsoft Office wizard was a key adviser during the start-up of HUDL. But Husker fan Raikes set some restrictions. "Sell your stuff to a Miami or Texas," he said, "and I'll pull my investment

Liz Hruska, a Press Club board member, presented a check for the Ron Raikes Learning Community Scholarship Fund established at the Avenue Scholars Foundation. Ron, who died in 2009, was Jeff's brother. One of Ron's most notable achievements while in the Nebraska Legislature was the creation of the 11-District Learning Community. Allen Beermann, also a Press Club board member, presented Jeff and Tricia Raikes with a glass decanter signed by John Shelton.

The Face on the Floor created by artist Jim Horan pictures Raikes driving a John Deere tractor on the family farm. Jeff is holding a laptop computer, and his tractor is towing a wagonload of – no, not corn – binary code and some of his many Microsoft innovations.