

THE FORTY-FIFTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), March 23, 2005

Senate called to order at 10:36 a.m.

President pro Tempore Amodei presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Dr. Stanley Friend.

Gracious God, we are grateful that Your living word is at work in us to prepare us for worthy service as leaders within the State of Nevada. We express our gratitude to You by committing ourselves to Your guidance in our decision making with this State Senate. In Your Name, we pray.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 10:37 a.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 10:38 a.m.

President Hunt presiding.

Quorum present.

Senator Raggio moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with, and the President and Secretary be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Madam President:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 204, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

WILLIAM J. RAGGIO, *Chair*

Madam President:

Your Committee on Human Resources and Education, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 120, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

MAURICE E. WASHINGTON, *Chair*

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, Carson City, March 22, 2005

To the Honorable the Senate:

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day passed Senate Bill No. 114; Assembly Bills Nos. 79, 141, 164.

DIANE KEETCH

Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Assembly Bill No. 138 having received a constitutional majority, Madam President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate recess until 11:15 a.m.
Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:05 a.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 11:22 a.m.

President Hunt presiding.

Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By Senators Raggio, Titus, Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Townsend, Washington and Wiener:

Senate Resolution No. 4—Inducting Joseph M. Neal, Jr., into the Senate Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, The Senate of the Legislature of the State of Nevada has established a Senate Hall of Fame whose members are selected by leadership from those past Senators who have served with distinction and who have made exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Joseph "Joe" M. Neal, Jr., was first elected to the Senate in 1972, becoming the first African-American member of the Senate, and represented with great spirit and integrity the residents of Clark County in the Nevada Legislature from 1973 to 2004 for a total of 32 years, one of the longest tenures in the Senate in Nevada history; and

WHEREAS, In his long and distinguished career in the Senate, Joe Neal served as Senate President Pro Tempore, Assistant Majority Floor Leader, Minority Floor Leader and Assistant Minority Floor Leader and chaired both the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, Among his many accomplishments in the Legislature, Senator Neal led the fight to establish the state holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., and championed civil rights and equal rights; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neal also fought for reforming Nevada's tax system to benefit the average resident of this State and sponsored legislation strengthening Nevada's fire protection codes; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his legislative career, Senator Neal spoke eloquently and debated fiercely on behalf of the disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neal also distinguished himself through his mastery of the rules of parliamentary procedure and knowledge of legislative rules; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neal enhanced his legislative service by playing an active role in philanthropic endeavors by serving the Clark County community in leadership positions on numerous boards, commissions and foundations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That Joseph M. Neal, Jr., who dedicated 32 years of his life to the service of the people of the State of Nevada as a member of the Legislature and in other public capacities, is hereby inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame of the Legislature of the State of Nevada.

Senator Titus moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senators Titus, Horsford, Wiener, McGinness, Care, Washington, Raggio, Amodei, Mathews and Schneider.

Senator Raggio requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

SENATOR TITUS:

I am pleased and honored to speak in favor of this resolution, which helps to recognize and celebrate the distinguished public service career of Senator Joe Neal. Senator Neal's "larger-than-life" presence has dominated the halls of this Legislature for over 30 years. His booming voice on the floor of this Chamber will never be equaled. Indeed, Senator Neal is acknowledged by both ally and opponent alike as being the greatest orator in the history of this State. His eloquence derives from his academic knowledge, from his vast experience and from his compassion for those who are about to be affected by the actions that we are about to take. When Joe stands to speak, a hush falls over the room. Everyone, including Legislators, staff, the press, the lobbyists in the back, all stop to listen. He speaks from the heart. He fears nothing. He deftly parries any argument, and he does not hesitate to attack those who he believes turn a blind eye to injustice.

He has moved me to tears on more than one occasion. Senator Neal is also known as a constitutional scholar. He is an expert on both the United States and the State of Nevada Constitutions. Do not engage this man in a debate about the founding fathers or the Federalist Papers. He knows more than any professor I have ever encountered. Knowledge of the legislative rules is also Senator Neal's forte. He has probably committed Mason's Manual to memory. It is impossible to "pull one over" on Joe when it comes to proper procedure. I will never forget the night, and you may remember it too, when the Republicans stormed off the floor. The Democrats remained, and because there had not been a call to adjourn, Senator Neal advised us to call for a quorum. We did that, and the Legislative Police were sent to find a few Republicans who happened to be nearby. I will never forget the sight of Senator Ann O'Connell coming back into the building in her pajamas.

More recently, during the Twenty-first Special Session, we were sitting in the Democratic caucus room and the telephone rang. It was Senator Neal, who had been listening to the proceedings on the Internet, calling to give advice on how we should have done something a little differently when it came to procedure. Had he been here with us, it might have turned out a little differently.

Senator Neal's legislative agenda has always been an ambitious and aggressive one. Whether he was fighting for voting rights or against racial profiling, he has never relented. He has never shied from controversy, and he has never cowered in the face of enormous opposition. Senator Neal is much more than a role model. He is a man who has changed the face of this State. He is a man who has made history. Although he has left the Senate as we know Senator Neal, he is very much involved in things that go on. He is going to keep calling it as he sees it, unbought and un-bossed. Senator Neal's shoes are too big to ever fill, but he must feel some sense of gratification that he has left his beloved constituents in the hands of the young and able new senator, Senator Horsford.

Joe Neal likes to quote Abraham Lincoln and used to do it frequently on the floor. He actually reminds me more of Benjamin Franklin with a twinkling eye and always an amusing anecdote. Senator Hardy told me about one evening he spent four hours listening to old tales Joe told about people in times past. More than that, the reason Joe reminds me of Benjamin Franklin is that Benjamin Franklin's guiding principle was a dislike of everything that tended to debase the spirit of the common man. Few of Franklin's fellow founders felt this kind of comfort with democracy, and few of Senator Neal's colleagues can claim such a proud legacy. We will all be reminded of that legacy every day when we see Senator Neal's picture hanging in the hall. That will have to do until he finishes that book that I hope he is writing to recount the history of Nevada in recent decades and all the changes he has seen. He has been a major catalyst for many of those changes. Besides, nobody knows where the bodies are buried as well as Senator Neal.

SENATOR HORSFORD:

I, too, rise in support of the resolution inducting Senator Joe Neal into the Senate Hall of Fame. Senator Neal is a statesman like no other. He has championed causes and used his position in the State Senate to represent those who had no voice. As the first African American

elected to the State Senate, Senator Neal has faced challenges that people in my generation have only read about. While my peers and I may never be able to fully understand what it took for him to stand firm in the midst of these challenges, I appreciate him for forging the way for others to follow.

Senator Neal took on issues, became a master of the process and represented our community with commitment and dedication. I am truly thankful for what he has done. While he is retired from public life, he will always be Senator Joe Neal.

SENATOR WIENER:

Senator Neal, I want to address this to you. He has and does often tell me, "Get up and talk it, don't read it." To honor that request, I am going to "talk it," today, with no notes or script. I first had an exchange with Senator Joe Neal the day after the election in 1996. He called me early and said, "Senator Wiener, I knew you could do it." I was not so sure, but he was sure. He said he had watched me throughout the campaign, and he knew the victory would be mine. Little did I know the impact of that conversation as the years transpired since then. We all know Joe Neal as a Legislator, and I would like to reflect upon my first day after being sworn in. I sat on the third row wondering what I was doing there. I looked down at Senator Neal as he rose to talk about Martin Luther King. His eloquence was immeasurable. I was awed. He spoke, and I thought to myself, "Here is a natural place to conclude," thinking he would sit down. He took a breath and continued. I got to the point where I thought he had a second natural conclusion; he took a breath and continued. When he finally concluded his remarks, I realized that I had not heard anything so well stated about such a historic figure. We had a technical problem that first day of the Sixty-ninth Session and his remarks were not recorded. Not to be daunted or set aback, the next legislative day Senator Neal rose and spoke about Martin Luther King all over again, and I am not sure if there was a sentence repeated because he was so well versed on the subject. The remarks were to be remembered.

We know him as a Legislator, and I certainly know him as an eloquent Legislator. I sat behind him for three sessions. I got a different perspective on Senator Neal than most; I got the "rear-view" perspective. I know when he wanted to make a point, he made sure to turn around and make eye contact with me to ascertain my level of commitment to his statement. I also knew that every time he stood, I was also on camera. I had to be careful of my own demeanor. Thank you for that Senator Neal.

One time, in the Senate Committee on Transportation, I had no seniority and I was sitting on the end next to Senator Neal. I was reviewing my notes from having studied the bills the night before being religious about my commitment to my committee work. He was leaning back, much as he is now, eyes closed as he was reflecting on something. He said, "Hotdog, I understand that when attorneys are assigned my bills downstairs, they get nervous about it even to the point of intimidation." He paused and asked, "Are you intimidated by me?" I paused, turned around, made eye contact with him and said, "You should be so lucky."

Joe often spoke on the floor or in committee about things that others of us might feel uncomfortable addressing. He challenged us in ways we might not have wanted to be challenged. That is what we know about Joe, as a Legislator. I want to talk about Joe's commitment to friendship. If you looked at the two of us, you may have wondered why we became friends. We did. We have continued that friendship well beyond the halls. Joe is a friend. He defines friend in the dictionary. Whether I need someone to talk to at a moment there is no one else, he is the one who calls. I do not know how he knows, but he is the one who calls. When I need someone to fix something, whether it is a piece of exercise equipment in my apartment here or a screen door at home or something that is technical beyond my knowledge, Joe is the one who volunteers. When I need a ride somewhere, he is the one who delivers the chariot. He never questions and always comes with a smile, twinkle in his eye, his giggle and a long story to tell. I do not always agree with Joe. I can say we disagree often. He has an uncanny way of delivering his message. That giggle, no matter how serious the issue, is enough to disarm anybody who would want to take him on.

We do not often talk about the relationships we develop in this legislative body and beyond. Election night 2002 when everybody was rallying with their supporters, Joe had run for statewide office and should have been with those supporters and friends who stood by him in

that campaign. He was not with them. He was sitting in a rocking chair next to my bed, watching me vigilantly during my recovery from surgery. I had just gotten home, and he wanted to make sure I was not left alone. He visited me every day or called me because as a friend, Joe did not want me to be alone. We do not see Joe's car in the parking lot with number two anymore, and that is the rank of seniority that he reached. "Joe, you are number 1 in my heart." I want to thank you for serving the State of Nevada as a Legislator and the rest of us as friend.

SENATOR MCGINNESS:

I do not think we will ever see a student of the legislative process better than Senator Neal. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Taxation, I can say, "We miss you, and it has been six weeks, and no one has taken a run at the big gamers."

SENATOR CARE:

I rise in support of the resolution also. I first met Joe Neal when I was a young reporter in Las Vegas. I followed a story in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and I am convinced we would not have a coroner's inquest in Clark County were it not for the involvement of Joe Neal. My wife, Jenny, sat on the board of directors with him on the Economic Opportunity Board. Joe would come to Channel 13 to address our editorial board on occasion, and he did not hold back on anything. I never dreamed I would be in the Senate with him, but I had a good idea of what kind of a man he was before I got here.

I want to be brief, the last speech he gave during last session, it was apparent to me that he was concerned about what should be the sanctity of the process and the independence of the Legislative Branch of the government. That was an issue during the last session and I hope it does not come to that again, but I remember Joe's words as he departed the floor after that last session. The Minority Leader talked about that night also. My first session, I had never heard of the "Call of the House," and I really did not know what that was. I thought it was a poker hand or something. I was with Senator Neal when there was some confusion about the missing Republicans. I remember someone from Legislative Counsel Bureau said to the good Senator, "Would it be okay if we just made a couple of phone calls and got two of them to come in here to make a quorum?" Senator Neal's response to that was, "Heck no. I want you to use your powers and go out and arrest all those sons of guns." It did not come to that, but I do remember it well.

Joe, I want to thank you for your inspiration. In 2002, we had a little disagreement about your campaign, but I want you to know I did vote for you. I would do it again.

SENATOR WASHINGTON:

Thank you, Madam President. I also rise in support of this resolution for Senator Neal. I had an opportunity once to do a sermon about a man and his legacy. I would like to talk about Senator Neal's legend.

I first heard about Joe Neal when I was a junior in high school in the early 1970s. He was a man who was big among my peers. Senator Neal was the first Black Legislator, the first Black Senator. We knew and read about Joe Neal. We all looked up to him. He was a handsome devil. I wondered if I could ever match his footsteps and if I could ever meet this man. I finally met Senator Neal and shook his hand. I was in awe because he had blazed a trail. He had opened some doors. He had set a path that men like myself or young women would be able to say that someone made it, someone did it. He was a legend but was real and concrete.

When I finally made it to this esteemed body, I got a chance to see Senator Neal work. As I watched him work, I saw he was a student of parliamentary procedures. He knew his bills. Just to watch the master at work was an awesome sight. As you look throughout this audience, you see an array of people he has touched, people of all races. He has been the warrior, the fighter and the voice that would speak in the wilderness. That is his legacy now. The testimony of his legacy is the people that surround him and the hearts and the people he has touched.

As I look at him now, I wonder if I will ever be able to match that legacy. I am not trying to reach that legacy because it speaks for itself. I had an occasion once to debate Senator Neal on the floor. It was during the welfare reform bill. He got up and blasted the bill and made me feel not so tall. As he kept going, I just sunk down in my seat, and the more he spoke, the smaller I felt. When my opportunity came, I was really scared. I thought, oh Lord, what am I going to do

now? He challenged me, and I had to get up and say something. I gave a speech not so much because it just bubbled up in my soul or out of my heart; I gave a speech out of fear because I was afraid of him. He challenged me which I thought was all right. I will never forget that.

I just want to tell Senator Neal that his legacy speaks volumes for him not only in the south but also up north. Senator Neal, everyone loves you. Everyone knows you. Everyone admires the work you have done. Even walking into this body, it was you that I looked to for help and guidance, and you were there. Thank you, Senator Neal.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

Thank you, Madam President and members of the Senate. It is difficult to enlarge upon what has already been said about this gentleman.

Senator Neal and I came to the Legislature in 1972. It was difficult to outlast him, and I never thought I would. On many occasions, we both threatened to leave here. When we came to this building in 1972, times were far different than they are today. It was a different world, a different State, and it was a different Legislature. Nevada was relatively small. It was growing, but no one could envision what the State of Nevada would develop into in the future. During the 32-year span that has passed since we both arrived as freshmen, much has changed. At that time, Senator Neal and I were so far apart that it was difficult for us to sit down and discuss an issue. That was true for the entire Senate at that time. However, over the years, we both had the same commitment. We wanted to do what was best for the State of Nevada. We are of different parties and may have taken different paths at times, but Senator Neal never took his eye off that goal.

Senator Neal is one of the most dedicated, committed individuals I have ever had the privilege to work with. On many occasions, he gave wonderful remarks about Reverend Martin Luther King. He tried every year to get a Martin Luther King holiday while the Democrats controlled the Senate. He was never able to do it, but the first time the Republicans were in power in the Senate, we put through the Martin Luther King holiday.

We have had exchanges and have not always agreed, but I have always admired and respected his demeanor, his attitude and his dedication to this process. The Senate of the State of Nevada is a better institution because people like Senator Neal have served in it. We argued and though he got a little bit histrionic at times, maybe we had to throw a little water on him to cool him down, but we always respected what he had to say even if sometimes it took a little longer than necessary for him to say it. I reminded him of that earlier this morning.

I wish to add my personal respect and admiration to this well-deserved recognition, and I say so on behalf of all of who serve on the majority party at this time. Senator Neal, your years of service are appreciated. This is a better State for the fact that you have served here. Your constituency was well served. You are a legend. We admire you and respect you.

SENATOR AMODEI:

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to share the perspective of someone who comes from the opposite end of the State. Senator Neal, I think your best years in the Senate were the ones in which I served.

Many a time, I watched as Senator Mark James who chaired Judiciary argued with you throughout the 1999 and 2001 session. They would go at it debating about what decisions had come out of Judiciary. I would sit back and be thankful that there were people from Las Vegas to do the arguing. I was just happy to be here and to not be one of them. Then, I made the mistake of introducing a bill my first session that had to do with the Nevada Day holiday that a relative of mine had introduced a similar bill 60 years ago. The day the bill was introduced, Senator Neal rose from his desk and headed towards mine. I hoped he was coming my way to fight with Mark James who sat next to me. But, he stopped, leaned over my desk and said, "You think because your uncle did something on this bill, that you have the right to have a bill on it?" I thought, "Okay, I will withdraw the bill."

Much to my fear, after running for reelection and being reelected, I showed up at my caucus meeting for the 2003 session, and my caucus mates said, "We want you to chair Judiciary." I pointed out there are many senior people available for that job. There was Senator McGinness and Senator Washington. I said I had never been on the committee. Moreover, the whole time we were discussing this, I was thinking the reason Mark James is not in the Senate anymore is

because of Joe Neal. In caucus, I said, "No. I have never been on the committee. I do not like lawyers. That is why I am on Senator Townsend's committee." There are stories about how this caucus gets along. They were unanimous. They smiled and said, "You chair Judiciary. You deal with Joe Neal on the floor."

Well, we tried several things to deal with Joe Neal. We had floor statements from committees. I told my committee people, "Get Joe Neal his own Judiciary floor statement book. Make sure he gets all the floor statements from Judiciary." We had Judiciary batting practice caps. We made certain Joe Neal got one. We tried buying him off but to no avail. I decided since I was one of the younger members, I would play the physical card on him. The first time I grabbed his shoulders I realized I could not even get my arms around him. I decided at that point, the physical card would not work either.

Now, during all this, the next good news the caucus gave to me was that since Senator Jacobsen was retiring, they wanted me to be President pro Tempore. Through their phenomenal unanimity, they reasoned that when Joe Neal stands up and starts talking about something and the Lieutenant Governor is not there, then it is my job to shut him up.

I remember looking down from the podium on a few occasions while Senator Neal was talking and seeing Senator Raggio giving me the high sign to stop him talking. I remember thinking, "I think I can outrun Raggio, but I don't think I can beat Neal."

For a guy who just wanted to mind his own business from Carson City, to have to deal with the "Bear" from North Las Vegas, it was quite the cultural experience in terms of "you better learn on the fly, and if you make a mistake, it is big trouble."

Senator Neal, your last session was a significant session for everyone in the State and for the history of this institution. There are three things I think of when I think of this man who is a statewide legend. When push comes to shove, regardless of your political beliefs or regardless of anything else, Joe Neal is best described in two words—"Good people." Senator Neal, during that last session, as the protector of this branch of government and the protector of this House of the Legislature, I was phenomenally proud of you. Lastly, I miss you. It is good to see you.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this resolution and of my friend, Joe Neal. When Bishop Cox was bishop of our church, he used to say to us, "If there ever is going to be a Black fellow in Carson City in the Senate, it is going to be that Joe Neal." In 1970, Bishop Cox died and my father became Bishop of the State of Nevada for the Church of God in Christ. My father said there is a young man running for office, and he encouraged everyone to listen to him speak. Joe Neal came to all the churches. He spoke, and he listened to the people. I went to Las Vegas one time to hear this mighty man, Joe Neal, speak. It was in that service that I first heard him, and I shall never forget it.

My father admired him. My family admired him. He was my mentor when I came here 18 years later. He was the first Black male, and I was the first Black female to serve in this body. He gave me some advice that I will never forget. I thank you, Joe, and I miss you. I have called him many times. Often he will not pick up the phone, but when I say, "pick up the phone" sometimes he will, and he will say, "What do you want?"

I miss you, Joe. Thank you for all the advice. I never did learn to speak publicly, but I did take all your advice. I do read my bills because of you. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHNEIDER:

I, too, rise in support of this resolution. They moved me from my lofty seat in the back row to this space that used to be the seat that belonged to Joe Neal. As I sit here, I notice the cord on the microphone is awfully short. I think the Majority Leader kept trying to get the cord shorter and shorter perhaps to shorten the speeches coming from this chair. I had to call maintenance to loosen up the cord so I could stand up and talk.

I served a few sessions in the Assembly. In my first session, I had a bill that was passed out of the Assembly and sent to the Senate. I thought the people on this side were pretty old. I thought half of them would not show up to the committee meeting and the other half would be sleeping. I thought, "This will be easy getting this bill through." Well, Senator Neal was leaning back in his chair with his eyes closed, and I was certain he was snoring. I knew I heard him. I tried to take the easy route as I gave my testimony. Then, I heard him, "Mister Chairman, I have

a question," he stated. He fired a question at me, and I was amazed wondering how did he think of that? I thought he was asleep and not listening. I could not answer and, boy, did I sweat. When I moved to the Senate and sat next to him on a few committees, again, I could swear he was sleeping. However, here, again, came that question, "Mister Chairman." Pity the poor lobbyist who did not have their homework done.

The first session I spent in the Senate, I was the Minority Whip. I had to get the votes together. The Governor called me once and asked me to get the votes on an issue. Sometimes, Senator Neal and I did not get along, but I told the Governor I would get the vote from him. I asked Senator Neal for his vote on the issue. He said he would give me his vote. The Governor's people called me during that week to see if I had the vote. I told them, yes. He gave me his word. A week later, we had the vote. The Governor called me after the floor session and asked how I got Senator Neal's vote. I told him I asked him for it. It was easy. I found out with Senator Neal, once he gave you his word, that was it. If you asked him to be there next month, you did not have to remind him; he would be there. I appreciated working with him. I know that I am the minor league even though I sit in this seat. Senator Neal went past the major league. He is the Hall of Fame.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Raggio requested that the remarks of former Senator Joseph M. Neal Jr. be entered in the Journal.

FORMER SENATOR NEAL:

Thank you, Madam President, the Majority Leader, Minority Leader and members of the Senate. I am humbled by your remarks today. I remind you to remain true to the process. Also, remember the people who elected you and treat them well. Do not treat them as a horse would do to a cold wind. If you do not know what that means, ask Senator Rhoads.

I thank you for this honor. I am pleased to be here. I have part of my family here, today. My daughter, the doctor, could not make it because she could not get off work and my daughter in pharmacy could not make it here because of the rainstorm. However, my older daughter, Cherisse, and my younger daughter, the lawyer, Dena, are here. John, James, Alexandra and Estelle are my grandchildren and are pleased to be here to listen to what has been said today about their grandfather.

Thank you for this honor.

By Senators Raggio, Titus, Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Townsend, Washington and Wiener:

Senate Resolution No. 5—Inducting Dr. Raymond D. Rawson into the Senate Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, The Senate of the Legislature of the State of Nevada has established a Senate Hall of Fame whose members are selected by leadership from those past Senators who have served with distinction and who have made exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Raymond D. Rawson, D.D.S., M.A., who represented the residents of Clark County Senatorial District No. 6 in the Nevada Legislature for a total of 20 years, from 1985 to 2004, served in many leadership positions, including Chairman of both the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities and the Legislative Committee on Health Care, as well as Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rawson also served as Chairman of the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada and as Senate Assistant Majority Floor Leader and Assistant Minority Floor Leader, as well as a member of the Interim Finance Committee and numerous other standing and interim study committees; and

WHEREAS, Among his many accomplishments in the Nevada Legislature, Dr. Rawson sponsored legislation that resulted in class-size reduction in the public schools and served as an ardent supporter of and advocate for higher education; and