

**THE SEVENTEENTH DAY**


---

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), February 21, 2007

Senate called to order at 10:59 a.m.

President Krolicki presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Senator Horsford, who was excused.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Don Baumann.

Gracious God, You said that it is good that we love mercy so we come before You today and ask that You would guide each man and woman of this Senate with Your heart of compassion. May they be aware of the needs of the weakest and most vulnerable among us, the ones who most need the protection of a just and compassionate government. The sick, the poor, the homeless; the elderly, the orphan; the military family bereaved of a parent or child, the disabled veteran—may the needs of these Nevadans be met with compassion by this body. We ask this in the Name of the Father of Mercies and the God of all comfort, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Your Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 38, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

DENNIS NOLAN, *Chair*

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, Carson City, February 20, 2007

*To the Honorable the Senate:*

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day passed Assembly Bill No. 26.

SUSAN FURLONG REIL  
*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

COMMUNICATIONS

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

A. WILLIAM MAUPIN, CHIEF JUSTICE

CAPITOL COMPLEX

CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747

February 16, 2007

RE: State of the Judiciary Address 2007 Legislative Session, March 7, 2007

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM RAGGIO, *Majority Leader, of the Senate*

401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701-4747

DEAR SENATOR RAGGIO:

As Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nevada, it is my privilege to request to address the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada. I am informed that the date of Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 5:00 p.m., has been tentatively scheduled for this purpose and shall take place in the Assembly Chamber of the Legislative Building. If a conflict exists with this time and date, please contact my office.

The Supreme Court's reception for the Legislature will be held immediately following the Judiciary Address. We cordially invite the members of the Legislature to attend.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
A. WILLIAM MAUPIN  
*Chief Justice*

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By Senators Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio, Rhoads, Schneider, Titus, Townsend, Washington, Wiener; Assemblymen Grady, Allen, Anderson, Arberry, Atkinson, Beers, Bobzien, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Cobb, Conklin, Gansert, Goedhart, Goicoechea, Hardy, Hogan, Horne, Kihuen, Mabey, Manendo, Marvel, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Segerblom, Settlemeyer, Smith and Womack:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6—Designating February 21, 2007, as E Clampus Vitus Day at the Nevada Legislature.

WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of the Nevada Legislature that the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus has maintained its honorable status throughout the known world and especially in this great State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The Ancient and Honorable and Exceedingly Humble Order of E Clampus Vitus has survived the test of time to become one of the longest surviving brotherhoods of men that continue to fulfill a fundamental need in providing protection and kindness while advancing the noble cause of Clamperdom to residents of the Silver State, especially all the "widders" and orphans, and descendants of the Argonauts; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus was founded in West Virginia in 1845 by Ephram Bee, owner of a tavern on the National Road, and shortly thereafter the warmhearted brothers affectionately became known as the "Clampin Vipers"; and

WHEREAS, In 1860, William Stewart founded the first Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, Winnemucca Lodge #1, in the Utah Territory, in the unsuspecting peaceful town known as Carson City; and

WHEREAS, The creed of the Clamproctors, yesterday, as well as today, is "to protect the 'widders' and orphans, and MAINLY the 'widders'"; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada is proud to continue the tradition of 162 years of devoted service with the Nevada chapters, which now include the Snowshoe Thompson Chapter of Douglas County, the Julia C. Bulette Chapter of the Comstock, the Lucinda Jane Saunders Chapter of Elko County and the Queho Chapter of Clark County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature, of whom many are proud members of E Clampus Vitus, do hereby declare February 21, 2007, as E Clampus Vitus Day at the Nevada Legislature, a day to be marked by appropriate revelry and thanksgiving; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus is praised and commended for its contributions to mankind and others, and recognized as an illustrious group of Clampers, Clampatrious, Vituscans and Frolicking Friars who must continue to serve and protect the residents of the Silver State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Patriarchs of E Clampus Vitus.

Senator Amodei moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senators Amodei, Nolan and Coffin.

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

SENATOR AMODEI:

Thank you, Mr. President. This continues a long-standing tradition in the Nevada Legislature to do a resolution and have a day for the members of E Clampus Vitus to come visit us. Many members of both the Senate and the Assembly have gone through the initiation process the ancient and honorable order of E Clampus Vitus has evolved. I want to thank the female members of the Senate as well as the female members of the staff for their good sense of humor about hosting the Clampers once during each Session. I ask the Senate to support the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

SENATOR NOLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, rise in support of this worthy resolution. We have a number of organizations who come before us who benefit causes primarily for women, and finally, we have an all-gentlemen's organization who at the inception their purpose was to support women, "widders and orphans." I wore my red tie in support of the Clamper brothers who are here, today.

I would, also, like to share with you this glorious, decorative certificate of my membership I received when I was brought into the organization in 1995. It is suitable for framing; I just have not found a wall worthy of its decoration. I will be sponsoring a new plebe to the initiation this evening, and I offer best wishes to the Grand Humbug and to the brothers on their "dooins and fixins" tonight.

SENATOR COFFIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. My vision, today, is probably just as good as it was the evening I was initiated into E Clampus Vitus. Perhaps, it is somewhat better. It is a lubrication process.

We all make fun of and have a lot of fun with E Clampus Vitus. In 1983 or 1985, I cannot remember which year, I was initiated into the organization. One thing that might be missing from this resolution is the reason why many of us have been tapped to come into this order. It is because of our interest in history. In addition to the original founding purpose of E Clampus Vitus, to assist the "widders and orphans," it happens to be a group that truly recognizes history and understands the need to preserve the history of the Old West, mining, the Comstock and all the other areas where miners risked their lives. Having an interest in history is how I became involved in the frolicking. Thank you for remembering these members in the Journal today.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Amodei moved that all necessary rules be suspended and that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 be immediately transmitted to the Assembly.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senator Raggio moved that Senate Bill No. 73 be taken from the Second Reading File and rereferred to the Committee on Finance.

Remarks by Senator Raggio.

Motion carried.

#### INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 127—AN ACT making an appropriation to Truckee Meadows Community College for the design and planning of the Spanish Springs Education Center; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Raggio moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security:

Senate Bill No. 128—AN ACT relating to highways; requiring the Department of Transportation to fix a reduced maximum weight limit for vehicles traveling on certain highways that have been designated as scenic routes; requiring the imposition of a fine for violations thereof; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Nolan moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

Motion carried.

Assembly Bill No. 26.

Senator Nolan moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

#### GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 17.

Bill read third time.

Senator Nolan moved that Senate Bill No. 17 be taken from the General File and placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

Remarks by Senator Nolan.

Motion carried.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:23 a.m.

#### SENATE IN SESSION

At 4:46 p.m.

President Krolicki presiding.

Quorum present.

COMMUNICATIONS  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-2801

February 21, 2007

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM RAGGIO, *Senate Majority Leader*, State of Nevada Senate

Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

DEAR SENATOR RAGGIO:

I am writing to you, today, to express my desire to address both Houses of the Legislature during the 2007 Legislative Session. It appears that February 26, 2007, is available, and I would enjoy the opportunity to share my views with the Legislature on national issues and the challenges that confront us in the Congress. Many of these issues will affect Nevada citizens directly, and the perspectives of the members of the Nevada Legislature are paramount to my decision making.

If you could let my staff know the details regarding my visit and address, I would appreciate it. I look forward to your response. Please direct any communication to my District Director, Tod Story. He can be reached at 702-220-9823.

Sincerely,  
SHELLEY BERKLEY  
*Member of Congress*

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By the Committee on Judiciary:

Senate Bill No. 129—AN ACT relating to guardianships; extending the time in which certain information must be provided to the court for the appointment of a guardian; revising the information that must be set forth in a petition to appoint a temporary guardian for certain wards; revising the provisions relating to the extension of temporary guardianships; revising provisions relating to petitions by guardians to the court; revising provisions relating to the treatment or commitment of a ward; extending the time in which a guardian must wind up the affairs of the guardianship; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Carlton moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Judiciary:

Senate Bill No. 130—AN ACT relating to property; repealing the prospective expiration of the provision relating to the use and sale of certain property acquired by a governmental entity through eminent domain; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Carlton moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Judiciary:

Senate Bill No. 131—AN ACT relating to county clerks; authorizing each county clerk to charge and collect an additional fee to pay for the acquisition and improvement of technology used in the office of the county clerk; increasing the amount of certain court fees charged and collected by county clerks; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Carlton moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Judiciary:

Senate Bill No. 132—AN ACT relating to civil liability; revising the provisions governing the liability of landowners, lessees and occupants of land where recreational trails are located; providing that a trailbuilding organization is not liable to a person using a recreational trail under certain circumstances; requiring a person who brings a tort action related to a recreational trail to pay attorney's fees and costs if the person does not prevail

in the action; revising the definition of a recreational activity for the purposes of the provision governing liability to persons using premises for a recreational activity; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Carlton moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Judiciary:

Senate Bill No. 133—AN ACT relating to liquefied petroleum gas; providing an affirmative defense to liability for persons or entities dealing in liquefied petroleum gas under certain circumstances; establishing a rebuttable presumption concerning compliance with standards and procedures regarding liquefied petroleum gas; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Carlton moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Government Affairs:

Senate Bill No. 134—AN ACT relating to impact fees; clarifying the provisions regarding the imposition of impact fees for certain capital improvements; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Hardy moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Government Affairs:

Senate Bill No. 135—AN ACT relating to State Government; creating the Office of State Paleontologist within the Department of Cultural Affairs; setting forth the qualifications and duties of the State Paleontologist; authorizing the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide the State Paleontologist with office space and supplies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Hardy moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Human Resources and Education.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Government Affairs:

Senate Bill No. 136—AN ACT relating to periods of observance; designating the month of May of each year as Archeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Hardy moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Government Affairs:

Senate Bill No. 137—AN ACT relating to local governmental purchasing; increasing the monetary thresholds at which local governmental purchasing contracts must be advertised or put out to bid; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Hardy moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Government Affairs:

Senate Bill No. 138—AN ACT relating to the residential construction tax for parks; revising the rate of the tax; revising the purposes for which the proceeds of the tax may be spent; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Hardy moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Government Affairs:

Senate Bill No. 139—AN ACT relating to governmental administration; revising requirements pertaining to certain cooperative or interlocal agreements between public agencies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Hardy moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Government Affairs:

Senate Bill No. 140—AN ACT relating to purchasing; requiring organizations that wish to participate in the Program to Encourage and Facilitate Purchases by Agencies of Commodities and Services From Organizations to register with and submit quarterly reports to the Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Hardy moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

#### MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblymen Conklin and Mabey were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblyman Conklin invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear Senator John Ensign.

The President announced that if there were no objections, the Senate would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate in recess at 4:53 p.m.

## IN JOINT SESSION

At 4:56 p.m.

President Krolicki presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senators Amodei, Care, Coffin and Rhoads, who were excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblyman Goicoechea, who was excused.

Mr. President appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Cegavske and Assemblyman Horne to wait upon the Honorable Senator John Ensign and escort him to the Assembly Chamber.

Senator Ensign delivered his message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA  
SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION, 2007

Speaker Buckley, Majority Leader Raggio, members of the Senate and Assembly, Governor Gibbons and other Constitutional Officers, distinguished guests and my fellow Nevadans:

I am honored to be here with you, today, at this moment of great opportunity and promise. In Nevada and Washington, D.C., we face the challenge of reaching out to members of the opposite party to make progress and improve the quality of life for all Americans. Throughout time, men and women have nobly answered this call and changed history.

Two hundred years ago this week, the struggle of a leader in Great Britain finally resulted in victory with a vote by the House of Commons to abolish the horrific slave trade. William Wilberforce had been the voice of the antislavery movement for more than two decades. He introduced his antislavery legislation every single session of Parliament, worked every possible angle and was ridiculed and targeted for his commitment to the cause. His health deteriorated during the course of his advocacy, but his passion did not.

William Wilberforce was admired for his ability to work with philosophical opponents for the greater good. One of his favorite sayings was, "Measures, not men." In this Capitol, and in our Nation's Capitol, we must commit ourselves to crossing the great political divide for the greater good.

I want to start off by congratulating our senior Senator, Harry Reid, now the Majority Leader of the United States Senate. I am very proud of my good friend for what he has accomplished. My Republican colleagues have entrusted me with the chairmanship of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and we have two members now on the House Ways and Means Committee. Nevada has truly never known such political influence in its history. Senator Reid and I have worked together on many Nevada initiatives over the years to improve the quality of life for our constituents. We have been so successful because we have been willing—along with the rest of the Nevada Delegation—to put aside our philosophical differences and party loyalties and do what is best for Nevada.

Our Delegation is well positioned to continue that work. In fact, Nevada is in the best position ever to put the brakes on the Yucca Mountain Project and finally shut down that money pit of deceitful management and bad science.

I feel very blessed to have been exposed to so much of our State throughout my life. My childhood memories are of growing up in Reno, Carson, Lake Tahoe and later in Las Vegas. This State has been home to my family for more than 100 years. There is no place like it in the world. All the things that I love about Nevada are the same reasons that thousands continue to move to our State each month. It is the quality of life that we all cherish so deeply.

The lands' bills that Senator Reid and I, along with then-Congressman Gibbons, have written over the past six years were born out of the desire to protect and enhance the quality of life

throughout Nevada. Our most recent bill, the White Pine County Lands' Bill, is a perfect example.

The White Pine County Lands' Bill, like the other laws, was crafted in cooperation with citizens holding many different views. The bill designates 550,000 acres of wilderness, but it also allows 45,000 acres of BLM land to be privatized. Land sale proceeds will go to funding White Pine County law enforcement, fire protection, transportation and natural resource planning. So far, with all of the lands' bills that we have done, the General Education Fund for the State has received \$150 million to this point.

The quality-of-life benefits extend to every corner of the State. The White Pine measure also includes a ten-year authorization for a comprehensive hazardous-fuels reduction program at Lake Tahoe, throughout the eastern Sierras and the Spring Mountains in southern Nevada. It also has funds to acquire and protect portions of the Ballardini Ranch in Washoe County, the acceleration of over a billion dollars in parks and trails in southern Nevada and the construction of a new reservoir to conserve 3 million acre-feet of water from the Colorado River.

These projects will make a tremendous difference in the lives of generations of Nevadans to come. They ensure that our natural resources are protected and that we are prepared for continued growth.

The innovative thinking that has made these bills so successful is the same kind of thinking we need to tackle other challenges facing our State—namely, traffic congestion. The gridlock haunting many of our daily commutes puts our families in danger, stifles businesses and harms our air quality.

State, county, and local Legislators can no longer look to Washington, D.C., for a blank check to fix these problems. The Highway Trust Fund is now paying out 100 percent of what it brings in. It is time to be open to finding innovative solutions. While the Federal Government will remain a partner, our State must explore every option to reduce gridlock as we look to improve the quality of life for all our constituents.

Innovation, entrepreneurship and competitiveness have been the cornerstones of our State's progress and popularity for many decades. Today, we need to inspire a new generation of young people to be innovative and to be competitive. Our students and businesses are no longer competing with just California and Arizona. They are up against people in China, India and across the globe. We must prepare them to meet that challenge.

I have spent a great deal of time over the past two years on legislation promoting competitiveness and innovation which impact Nevada's future economic strength and how we can prepare students for the twenty-first century workforce.

Working together, we must do all we can to attract more high-tech companies and scientific researchers to our State. Last year, I convened high-tech summits in Las Vegas and Reno in order to bring technology leaders together with educators, elected officials, chambers of commerce and business development leaders.

These businesses and researchers foster innovation and the new ideas, technologies and processes that lead to better jobs, higher wages and a higher standard of living. Unfortunately, in the fields responsible for innovation in the 21st Century—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—America is steadily losing its global edge.

Last Congress, I introduced the bipartisan National Competitiveness Investment Act to address innovation and competitiveness challenges faced by our Country. It focuses on three primary areas: increasing research investment; fostering science, technology, engineering, and mathematics talent; and developing an innovation infrastructure.

All of you know, I think, that I am a fiscal conservative. But, every dollar we invest at the federal level in basic research is a dollar that will come back to us in spades in terms of stimulating economic activity and helping to keep the United States and Nevada at the forefront of global innovation.

The National Competitiveness Investment Act also addresses the need to encourage more American students, from elementary school through graduate school, to pursue careers in science, engineering and mathematics, like we see at the Davidson Academy at UNR. The bill strengthens the skills of thousands of math and science teachers by establishing new undergraduate and graduate training programs.

Just this afternoon, I met with Dr. Benjamin Tayahi. He has his Ph.D. in electrical engineering and is an assistant professor at UNR. He has recognized the important need to engage students and inspire them in the areas of math, science and engineering—especially for minority students. His Saturday Engineering Academy is fueled, 100 percent, by volunteers. Students have access to cutting-edge technology at UNR and receive hands-on experience. It is really important that all of us focus on changing our educational system to meet the needs of the 21st Century. Other countries have scientists and mathematicians teaching science and math. In the United States, we mostly have education majors teaching science and math. If your passion is in science and math, you have a better chance of translating that passion to your students. I have talked to the presidents of UNR and UNLV and our Community Colleges about trying to transform the way we teach our teachers. The University of Texas at Austin has a program called "You Teach." It is innovative. They are actually taking science majors and teaching them to be teachers. The results, so far, have been promising. The University of California system is going along with this same kind of model. It is time for Nevada to take the lead in the Country to try to change the way we are teaching science and math teachers so that we can inspire the next generation of Nevadans.

Let me mention another issue being debated in Washington, D.C. that has a tremendous potential to increase our global competitiveness. When it comes to broadband deployment, we are falling behind the rest of the world.

The country that invented the Internet should not be 16th in the world when it comes to broadband deployment. Here in the State Legislature, you have a unique chance to help improve this situation and at the same time bring consumers more choices in video service.

Advances in technology, now, allow traditional cable or phone companies to get into each other's lines of business. This brings consumers another option for local phone service, and by introducing new competition, it creates better service, more features and better prices.

And, technology now makes it possible for telephone companies to get into the video business. However, our outdated laws make it a cumbersome, expensive and lengthy process.

The federal legislation seems to be stalled at this point so I would encourage you all to join the nine states that have passed legislation to streamline video-franchising rules to encourage the deployment of video services. Video competition will be great for consumers and result in exciting new services.

The opportunity to compete with cable and satellite in the video market is the key to spurring the investment in these broadband networks. The fiber-optic networks that will bring Nevadans video services will mean dramatically increased broadband speeds that are critical to keeping us competitive globally.

While I will continue to push for legislation at the federal level, I urge you to work together this year to bring competition and investment to our State.

We have also taken great strides in improving the quality of life for our honorable veterans. I was proud to be at the groundbreaking ceremony in southern Nevada for the new VA Medical Center and Hospital in North Las Vegas last year and look forward, with great anticipation, to the grand opening in 2011. We are also preparing for a community-based outpatient clinic in Fallon in the fall and continued improvements in health care for veterans in Elko.

I also believe that we must provide for our veterans' healthcare needs because without their sacrifice and service, very simply, none of us would have the freedoms that we cherish. But, there is still much more work to be done, however. We need a State veterans nursing home in northern Nevada to complement the one in southern Nevada. As fast as our State is growing, we need to expand the State Veterans Cemeteries in Boulder City and Fernley. I know these are ambitious goals, but they are the very least we can do for the champions of our democracy.

A brave, new generation of future veterans is defending our freedom and fighting for our security every day across the world. They and their families have made unbelievable sacrifices for our families and for our future. And, there is no shortage of heroes or heroic efforts from this great State.

As I stand before you tonight, 376 men and women of the Nevada National Guard are serving around the world in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom including one of my staff members who I am very proud of, Mark Sprinkle. Along with countless Nevadans in other branches of the military, they are the great defenders of democracy

and freedom. They have answered the call to protect and defend our Nation, and we are so proud of their commitment to this noble cause.

Roughly 100 soldiers from Fallon, Yerington, Reno, Las Vegas and Carson City are performing escort security duty in Iraq right now. These soldiers were all previously deployed to Fort Irwin, California. Not one of these soldiers had to go to Iraq, but every single one of them volunteered to go. There are many other Nevadans who have volunteered as well.

At Nellis Air Force Base, Air Force active-duty and reserve airmen as well as Nevada Air guardsmen are working together to play a critical role in fighting this war against radical, Islamic extremists. They are piloting the unmanned, armed Predator spy planes. The Predators have been vital to finding and killing terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan. Last year, this Nevada team of active, reserve and guard members participated in 470 raids, surveyed almost 16,000 targets, logged more than 40,000 flying hours and completed more than 2,000 sorties.

And the actions of our Nevada servicemen and women are nothing short of heroic. Next week, four airmen from Nellis will be awarded the Bronze Star Medal, and four will receive the Army Commendation Medal for their service in Iraq. As members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, they engaged in more than 700 combat missions, destroyed almost 400,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance and cleared tens of thousands of miles of strategic highway.

Technical Sergeant Michael Bibb manually cleared a vital road of Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, with a battle raging only 500 meters from his location. Staff Sergeant David Fitzpatrick manually cleared a landing zone in minutes so that a MEDEVAC helicopter could land and transport the wounded. Staff Sergeant Krumlinde evacuated an innocent Iraqi family, defeated a timed IED that had been placed next to their home and saved their lives and their home.

This is the courage we have seen, time and again, from Nevada's men and women in uniform. But, they do not serve alone. Their families have also shown great bravery and commitment in the face of worried days and sleepless nights. I have been awestruck by the support these families provide for their loved ones and for the entire military community.

Unfortunately, 50 men with ties to Nevada have made the ultimate sacrifice. They are more than numbers though. They are fathers, sons, brothers, husbands and friends. They left behind families who will never be able to fill the void left by their deaths.

One-year-old Ethan Garrigus' only memories of his father will be from pictures and the teddy bear he left behind with a special recorded message. Ethan's father turned down assignments on American soil in order to serve a second tour in Iraq. He believed in his mission, and he wanted to protect his son and his wife and our way of life.

I want Ethan to know that we are so proud of his father and his unwavering commitment to freedom. Sergeant Garrigus gave his life for a cause greater than all of us. It is in his honor and in the name of the men and women who have died defending freedom throughout our history that we should pledge to work together for the good of Nevada and the good of this Nation.

God bless all of them; God bless you, and God speed. Thank you.

Senator Heck moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to Senator Ensign for his timely, able and constructive message.

Motion carried.

The Committee on Escort escorted Senator Ensign to the bar of the Assembly.

Senator Hardy moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:23 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:26 p.m.

President Krolicki presiding.

Quorum present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

There being no objections, the President and Secretary signed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5; Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Amodei, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Nate Hughes, Steve Sherman, Jim Hughes, John Boyne, Robert B. Clark, David Dale, Steve Gray, Bob Inderbieten, Jeff Johnson, Matt Lowe, Ellis Nelson, Tim Pearce, Charles Ransom, Chris Rasmusser, Tom Ries, Jerry Robich, Robert Romer, David V. Tehee, Charles Thomas, Brooke Waker, Guy Zewadski, Ron Bradley, Danny Coyle, Mike Dale, Daniel Herron, John Jangula, Matthew Klahn, Tom Massotty, Geno Oliver, E. A. "Bo" Pollard, Rocky Dixon, Elenilson Santos, Chris Carter, Gary Wright and Uncle Buck Jones.

On request of Senator Cegavske, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Robert Bobbett Jr.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, February 22, 2007, at 11 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Approved:

BRIAN K. KROLICKI

*President of the Senate*

Attest: CLAIRE J. CLIFT

*Secretary of the Senate*