

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 4—Assemblymen Frierson; Elliot Anderson, Paul Anderson, Araujo, Benitez-Thompson, Bilbray-Axelrod, Brooks, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Carrillo, Cohen, Daly, Diaz, Edwards, Ellison, Flores, Fumo, Hambrick, Hansen, Jauregui, Joiner, Kramer, Krasner, Marchant, McArthur, McCurdy II, Miller, Monroe-Moreno, Neal, Ohrenschall, Oscarson, Pickard, Spiegel, Sprinkle, Swank, Thompson, Titus, Tolles, Watkins, Wheeler, Woodbury and Yeager

Joint Sponsors: Senators Parks; Atkinson, Cancela, Cannizzaro, Denis, Farley, Ford, Gansert, Goicoechea, Gustavson, Hammond, Hardy, Harris, Kieckhefer, Manendo, Ratti, Roberson, Segerblom, Settlemeyer, Spearman and Woodhouse

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Celebrating the life of former Assemblyman Bernie Anderson.

WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature on this day remember and celebrate the life of an esteemed colleague and dedicated public servant, former State Assemblyman Bernie Anderson; and

WHEREAS, Bernard J. Anderson Jr. was born on May 15, 1942, to proud Irish Catholics Bernard and Beatrice Anderson, of Sparks, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Bishop Manogue Catholic High School and the University of Nevada, Bernie Anderson began teaching government and history in the Reno/Sparks area, a career to which he dedicated more than 30 years of his life; and

WHEREAS, Teaching was not just a job, it was a passion for Bernie Anderson and he devoted great effort to ensure his students understood the importance of democracy and to share with them his love for this country; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Bernie Anderson began his political career, being elected to serve in the Nevada State Assembly, thereafter representing the people of the City of Sparks, Nevada, in Assembly District No. 31 for more than 20 years in the Nevada Legislature, most notably as Chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and serving honorably in various other leadership positions, including Majority Whip and Speaker Pro Tempore; and



WHEREAS, Although as Chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, Bernie Anderson was a stickler for decorum and known for the efficiency with which he led his committee, as it routinely considered and processed more bills than any other legislative committee he always ensured that the voices of all Nevadans were heard; and

WHEREAS, The “Woodshed” located in the offices of Chairman Anderson became infamous to those working with the Judiciary Committee as a place where they would be called upon to answer for their actions or to participate in the mediation of difficult issues, an effective tool which others continue to try to emulate today; and

WHEREAS, Bernie Anderson’s knowledge of the legislative process was unparalleled and he took great delight in teaching and mentoring other Legislators; and

WHEREAS, Bernie Anderson’s concerted effort to wear a tie each day to match the subjects or occasions being considered at the Legislature was more than a fashion statement, it was subtle notice that he was aware of the legislative agenda for the day and was willing to meet those challenges; and

WHEREAS, Even though Bernie Anderson’s first loyalty was to his constituents in the City of Sparks, he believed that as a public servant he was responsible to work toward the good of all Nevadans and always considered the impact of legislation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Of the many issues Bernie worked on as a Legislator, he was proudest of his work in creating Nevada’s first Drug Courts and combating domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, This longtime educator brought life to his curriculum by such actions as dressing up as historic characters to interact with his high school students, and peppering his legislative floor speeches with examples of courage shown by the Founding Fathers during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, Bernie Anderson had an incomparable ability to combine humor with public policy, as illustrated most notably when he would wear the hat from Cat in the Hat around the halls of the Legislature on March 2nd, the birthdate of Dr. Seuss, and read excerpts of the books on the floor of the Assembly to honor the author and emphasize the importance and joy of reading; and

WHEREAS, In addition to serving the citizens of Nevada as an educator and Legislator, Bernie was also a Staff Sergeant E-6 in the Nevada Army National Guard from 1960 to 1967, and in 2007 was honored with the Charles Dick Medal of Merit in recognition of his service to the National Guard; and



WHEREAS, Even above his love of teaching, legislative service, trains and the City of Sparks, was his love for and respect of his wife Clyda and their two daughters, Cairn and Natha Clyde — the mere mention of their names would light up his face; and

WHEREAS, Bernard J. Anderson Jr. will long be remembered as a devoted husband, father and grandfather, an outstanding public servant and one of the greatest advocates for Sparks and Washoe County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature remember and celebrate the life of Bernard J. Anderson Jr. on this day and extend their deepest condolences to Bernie's cherished wife Clyda, and daughters Cairn and Natha; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit copies of this resolution to Assemblyman Anderson's beloved wife and daughters.

