

THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), March 8, 2017

Senate called to order at 11:33 a.m.

President Hutchison presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Senator Roberson, who was excused.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Florence Kaweesa.

Kitange omutukuvu, Njagala okukwebaza olwenkya eno no lunaku luno. Lwelunaku lwewamanya nti fena abali wansi wakasolya kano tunabeera balamu. Tukuwa Etibwa kyona ne tendo. Nolwensonga eyo tuja mukuberawokwo nga tuwaayo abantubo bano abomuwendu nga batudde okuteesa, obawe obumu, amagezi n, okutegeera. Tuyimilira ng, omuntu omu nga tusaba olungamyemitima jaffe nokuteesa kwaffe Kulwegwanga lino.

Tusabye nga tuyita mulinya lya YESU Kristo, omwana wa Katonda omulamu.

AMINA.

Father Glory, I just want to thank You for this morning and day. It is + the day that was made for all of us under this building, that we are still alive. We give You all the glory and praise. So we come in Your presence and dedicate Your precious people as they proceed with their meeting, that You give them unity, wisdom and understanding. We stand together as one and pray that You guide all of our hearts and all of our decisions for this great Country.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ian Stafford.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the Journal is dispensed with, and the President and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By Senators Segerblom, Atkinson, Cancela, Cannizzaro, Denis, Farley, Ford, Gansert, Goicoechea, Gustavson, Hammond, Hardy, Harris, Kieckhefer, Manendo, Parks, Ratti, Roberson, Settlemeyer, Spearman, Woodhouse; Assemblymen Ohrenschall, Elliot Anderson, Paul Anderson, Araujo, Benitez-Thompson, Bilbray-Axelrod, Brooks, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Carrillo, Cohen, Daly, Diaz, Edwards, Ellison, Flores, Frierson, Fumo, Hambrick, Hansen, Jauregui, Joiner, Kramer, Krasner, Marchant, McArthur, McCurdy II, Miller, Monroe-Moreno, Neal, Oscarson, Pickard, Spiegel, Sprinkle, Swank, Thompson, Titus, Tolles, Watkins, Wheeler, Woodbury and Yeager:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2—Memorializing William Patterson (Pat) Cashill.

WHEREAS, The members of the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature note with profound sorrow the passing, on August 27, 2016, of Pat Cashill, a proud native Nevadan who was a tireless advocate on behalf of those injured by others and whose efforts helped protect Nevada's entire legal system; and

WHEREAS, William Patterson Cashill was born in Reno, Nevada, on August 22, 1944, beginning a life that was filled with adventure, travel and family; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Colorado Law School, Pat Cashill returned to Nevada, where he worked as an Assistant United States Attorney, was the first Nevadan appointed to serve as a special attorney in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the United States Department of Justice and also served as a Special Attorney for Water Rights on behalf of the Department; and

WHEREAS, Pat Cashill was admitted to practice law in Nevada, California and Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Pat Cashill was active in numerous legal organizations, serving on the Board of the Nevada Justice Association for 20 years, as its president from 1986 to 1987, on its Political Action Committee, Citizens for Justice, for 30 years, and serving as a volunteer lobbyist on behalf of the Nevada Justice Association protecting the rights of all Nevadans for 40 years as well as serving on the American Association for Justice; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his successful career and steadfast work on behalf of the legal community, Pat Cashill became a certified Fraud Examiner at the age of 70 years; and

WHEREAS, Above all else, Pat Cashill loved his family, being a devoted husband to his wife Johnna and father to their children John and Kate, all of whom enjoyed exploring the world together, climbing, diving, snorkeling and trekking; and

WHEREAS, Their adventures took Pat Cashill and his family to such places as Egypt, Spain, Russia, Switzerland, Tanzania, Australia, Indonesia, Micronesia, Ecuador, Belize and Brazil, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Pat Cashill was also an avid fisherman, fly fishing in rivers and lakes in Nevada as well as in other states and even other countries; and

WHEREAS, Pat Cashill was an avid skier, swimmer, former marathon runner, former rugby player, hunter and lifetime member of the Northern Nevada Handball Association; and

WHEREAS, Pat Cashill lived life to the fullest, never allowing anything to get in the way of pursuing his dreams and goals; and

WHEREAS, Pat Cashill leaves behind his loving wife Johnna, sister Terry Juhola, daughter Kate and her husband Ryan Blewett, son John and his wife Charlotte, and grandchildren Mackenzie and Aiden; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby extend their deepest condolences to the beloved family and countless friends of Pat Cashill; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Johnna Cashill, the loving wife of Pat Cashill.

Senator Segerblom moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senator Segerblom.

I rise today to speak in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. S.C.R. 2.

All of us who have served in this body in past sessions are deeply saddened by the recent death of our friend and associate, Pat Cashill. Pat was associated with the Nevada Legislature for more than three-and-a-half decades. He first appeared as a registered lobbyist in the 1979 Session. Beginning in 1987, he represented the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association and its successor, the Nevada Justice Association before almost every regular and Special Session of the Legislature. He could boast of longer legislative experience than any of us who sit here today. Pat is an example of what we as citizen examples go through. We have to come up here, and we are not professionals. But there are professionals in the community who make it their business to help us four months every two years. Pat was a classy example of someone who lived in Reno but would come down here when we were in Session for the past 40 years and spend thousands of hours traveling and consulting with us. We could call him up and use him as an expert. The other side had well-paid, professional attorneys that were trying to add things to bills that we did not understand. If we saw something we did not think was appropriate, we would call up Pat and ask him about it. I want to thank him for protecting the people of Nevada.

Looking back over the minutes of committee hearings for the past 30 years, I am surprised at how often Pat testified, and I am impressed with the depth and wisdom of his comments. As an experienced attorney, he brought to our deliberations the benefit of his familiarity with hundreds

of complex and difficult legal cases. As a representative of Nevada's independent attorneys, he sometimes appeared to testify on behalf of the particular interests of that group. For example, he often commented on bills involving professional associations and other matters that were of special interest to members of the Bar. But more often, he appeared to advocate access to justice for all citizens. He was passionate about safeguarding our right as citizens to seek redress and to find effective remedies when we have been wronged.

As we all know, the world is a dangerous place. There are wrongdoers who commit fraud and then seek to escape responsibility. They are tireless and inventive. They take refuge behind ingenious corporate structures. They even shield themselves behind laws that the Legislature has enacted, laws that we enacted in good faith and for wholesome purposes.

For more than three decades, Pat Cashill was the Legislature's bloodhound. He could sniff out the potential for fraud and abuse that lurked in the most seemingly innocent provisions. Time and time again, he appeared before the Committees on the Judiciary to alert us to potential problems in the bills we were discussing—bills dealing with corporations, securities and judicial procedures and other matters. He was always there to point out issues and offer helpful amendments. Our Nevada statutes are far better and far more fair because of his untiring vigilance.

I urge you to join with me in saluting Pat Cashill, a great friend, a great attorney and a great advocate for the people of Nevada.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Segerblom moved that all necessary rules be suspended and that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 be immediately transmitted to the Assembly.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Segerblom, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Bill Bradley, Johnna Cashill, Eva Segerblom and Sharon Segerblom.

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

Senate in recess at 11:51 a.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 11:54 a.m.

President Hutchison presiding.

Quorum present.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Senator Manendo (by request):

Senate Bill No. 246—AN ACT relating to public works; revising provisions governing advertising for and the submission of proposals relating to a contract for a public work involving a construction manager at risk; eliminating the monetary threshold at which public bodies are authorized to enter into a contract with a design-build team for the construction of a public work; extending the prospective expiration of provisions relating to

construction managers at risk; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Education:

Senate Bill No. 247—AN ACT relating to education; revising provisions relating to annual reports of accountability; removing the requirement that the Department of Education provide to certain persons written notice that certain information is posted on the Internet website maintained by the Department; revising the number of days' notice certain boards of trustees of school districts are required to provide before adopting, repealing or amending certain policies or regulations; removing the requirement that the Superintendent of Public Instruction submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature a written report concerning the progress of schools and school districts in complying with certain plans concerning pupil discipline; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Denis moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Education:

Senate Bill No. 248—AN ACT relating to pupils with disabilities; authorizing a pupil with a disability to complete a school year in certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Denis moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Senators Woodhouse, Ratti, Cannizzaro, Cancela, Parks, Atkinson, Denis, Farley, Ford, Manendo, Segerblom, Spearman; Assemblymen Monroe-Moreno, Cohen, Diaz, Neal, Flores, Fumo and Joiner:

Senate Bill No. 249—AN ACT relating to education; requiring instruction in financial literacy for certain pupils enrolled in public schools; requiring a pupil enrolled in a public high school to receive instruction in economics; creating the Account for Instruction in Financial Literacy in the State General Fund; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Woodhouse moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Senator Denis:

Senate Bill No. 250—AN ACT relating to constables; repealing the requirement that constables hired in certain townships be certified by the

Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission as a category II peace officer; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By Senators Goicoechea and Settlemeyer:

Senate Bill No. 251—AN ACT relating to storage tanks; requiring the Board to Review Claims to adopt regulations for the administration of a program to award grants of money from the Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum to certain operators of storage tanks; authorizing the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to award grants of money to those operators under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Goicoechea moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 71.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 35.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Gustavson.

Senate Bill No. 35 creates the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Information Sharing of the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice for the purpose of reviewing issues related to the Nevada Criminal Justice Information System and reporting to the Advisory Commission with recommendations to address those issues. Additionally, the bill requires the Advisory Commission to make recommendations regarding the sharing of criminal justice information in this State and provide those recommendations to the Legislature and the Director of the Department of Public Safety. The bill adds to the Advisory Commission a representative of the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History. Statutory provisions pertaining to the current Advisory Committee on Nevada Criminal Justice Information Sharing are repealed.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 35:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Roberson.

Senate Bill No. 35 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 42.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Cannizzaro.

Senate Bill No. 42 revises the date for a board of county commissioners to fix the compensation for justices of the peace from July of any year in which a justice of the peace election is held to December of the year immediately preceding a year in which such an election is held.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 42:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Roberson.

Senate Bill No. 42 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 43.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Manendo.

Senate Bill 43 adds a representative from the United States National Park Service to the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 43:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Roberson.

Senate Bill No. 43 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 110.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Parks

Senate Bill No. 110 waives the requirement for a person to publish personal information in a newspaper for several weeks concerning a petition to change the person's name if the stated reason for the change is to conform the person's name to their gender identity.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 110:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Roberson.

Senate Bill No. 110 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 133.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Harris.

Senate Bill No. 133 revises the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act to apply to civilian employees of the Department of Defense regarding when a court in this State has jurisdiction to issue orders in custodial matters.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 133:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—None.
EXCUSED—Roberson.

Senate Bill No. 133 having received a constitutional majority,
Mr. President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1.

Resolution read third time.

Remarks by Senator Parks.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution by replacing the State Board of Pardons Commissioners with the Clemency Board. The Clemency Board is to consist of nine members appointed by the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General. At least five members of the Clemency Board must have experience working in the criminal justice system. The Legislature is to provide for the organization and duties of the Clemency Board, which is required to meet at least quarterly.

Testimony on this resolution indicated that an identical measure passed both houses of the Legislature unanimously in 2009, but the resolution was not brought back for consideration in 2011.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 1:

YEAS—20.
NAYS—None.
EXCUSED—Roberson.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 having received a constitutional majority,
Mr. President declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

SENATOR GANSERT:

In recognition of International Women's Day, several Senators would like to present information about historical women. I would like to talk about Sarah Winnemucca. Sarah Winnemucca was an author, educator, interpreter and military scout who advocated for the rights of Native American communities. She was born around 1844 in the Humboldt Sink and developed a high proficiency in language. She later served as an interpreter for her people and the U.S. Army during times of great conflict. She spoke passionately in the west and east about the mistreatment of Native American communities. With the help and encouragement of her benefactors, she wrote the autobiographical book, *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, which was published in 1883. It was the first book written in English by a Native American woman and remains a valuable historical record of Native American life.

Nevada sent a statue of Sarah Winnemucca to the U.S. Capitol Building, and there is one in our Capitol Building as well. There is an elementary school in Reno named after her in my District, Senate District 15.

SENATOR FARLEY:

I would like to speak about Gynne Chotwell. She is an American business woman who is President and Chief Operating Officer for SpaceX, the commercial space exploration company founded by Elon Musk. Rocket science is her business, and she manages the day-to-day operations of a \$2.6 billion contract with NASA to deliver astronauts to the International Space Station, readying the next generation of the Dragon spacecraft for its first trip to Mars in 2018. Gynne graduated from Northwestern University with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mathematics. She was the seventh employee to be hired by SpaceX in its founding year. Prior to working for SpaceX, she spent over ten years at The Aerospace Corporation.

If that is not enough, she is also married and has two children.

SENATOR CANCELA:

When we were first asked to think about women in history, I thought of a couple of major names who made a big impact, but often, when we think about history, it is the people whose names do not end up in history books who have the biggest impact. In my district that has the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, I thought about the women who are truly the backbone of our hospitality industry—the housekeepers of the Las Vegas Strip and the housekeepers of Nevada. There are over 14,000 housekeepers who work on the Las Vegas Strip. They are responsible for making sure every guest who comes to visit The Strip and our beautiful State has a tremendous experience. They are mothers and sisters. They come from all over the world and do some of the hardest and most important work in our State. I thought this a beautiful moment to honor them and their hard work for our State.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

I would like to share some information about Shirley Chisholm who was a great inspiration to me. Shirley Chisholm, born in 1924, was a pioneering African-American politician who began her professional career as a teacher after earning her Masters from Columbia University in 1952. She served as director of the Hamilton-Madison Child Care Center until the late 1950s, then was an educational consultant for New York City's Bureau of Child Welfare.

In 1969, Chisholm became the first Black congresswoman and began the first of seven terms. After initially being assigned to the House Forestry Committee, she shocked many by demanding reassignment. She was placed on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, eventually graduating to the Education and Labor Committee. She became one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1969. On August 10, 1970, she gave an impassioned speech to ask for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Chisholm was known for being outspoken about Women's Rights, Civil Rights and the intersectionality of both, making bold and necessary statements such as: "Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt," and "In the end, anti-Black, anti-female, and all forms of discrimination, are equivalent to the same thing—anti-humanism."

Shirley Chisholm became the first woman Democrat to make a bid for president of the United States when she ran for the Democratic nomination in 1972. Her biography is entitled *Unbought and Unbossed*. She said she wrote that title because that is what she is and what she always wants to be. She stated: "I don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential. At present, our country needs women's idealism, and determination, perhaps more in politics than anywhere else."

SENATOR RATTI:

Juliette Gordon Low was born in 1860 and was an infant during the Civil War. Due to her early life experiences, she learned empathy and care for others, developed an unconventional outlook on life. She was also known to have boundless curiosity and a sense of adventure. In adulthood, she faced some challenges. On her wedding day, a piece of the rice thrown in celebration lodged in her ear causing infections that eventually led to deafness in both ears. As her marriage progressed, her husband unfortunately turned to drinking and adultery. Due to the norms of her time, divorce was not initially an option. Instead, her family helped arrange for her to be traveling much of the time—thus, fulfilling her thirst for adventure.

During her travels, she met Lord Baden Powell who had just founded the Boy Scouts. Lady Baden Powell started the Girl Guides in response to the strong demand from girls. Daisy, as she was known to friends and family, immediately saw the potential of a program for developing a sense of service and adventure in girls. She returned to Savannah and in 1912 founded the first Girl Scout troop. Her niece was the first registered member.

From the very first days of the Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low valued inclusion and encouraged girls to break out of societal norms. The very first troops were started for girls of varying income levels. She took girls camping, which was unusual for the time, put black curtains on the gym windows so they could play basketball, and most importantly taught girls to be prepared so that they could prove useful members of society.

As Girl Scouts, we are to work hard to follow her legacy. Girl Scouts was one of the first youth organizations to integrate during the Civil Rights movement, and you will still find Girl Scouts choosing and advocating for inclusion. I am very proud to stand as a Girl Scout and honor Juliette Gordon Low today.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

Mary McLeod Bethune was born a child of former slaves in July 1875. A child of poverty, she was one of 17 children. She was the one and only child in her family to go to school when a missionary school for African-American children opened near her home. After attending school at the Scotia Seminary and the Dwight Moody's Institute for Home and Foreign Missions, Bethune returned to the South to begin her career as an educator.

For nearly a decade, Bethune worked as an educator, believing that education was the key to racial advancement. In 1904, Bethune founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls in Daytona, Florida, which is known today as the Bethune-Cookman College. The college was one of the few institutions where African-American students could pursue a college degree.

Bethune served as president of the Florida chapter of the National Association of Colored Women for many years and became the organization's National leader in 1924. She also was a special advisor and trusted friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt.

As Bethune said shortly before her death, "I leave you a thirst for education. Knowledge is the prime need of the hour."

SENATOR HARRIS:

Sandra Day O'Connor was born in 1930 and did much to help pave the way for the women who came after her. She had gumption, even as a child, and thrived on her family's cattle ranch in Arizona. She excelled in school, graduating from high school near the top of her class. She received her B.A. in economics from Stanford University, and her LLB from Stanford Law school all by the age of 22, which is quite an accomplishment.

After law school, she married John Jay O'Connor, III. After spending three years in Germany, they eventually settled in Maricopa County, Arizona and raised three sons. Sandra continued to excel, serving as Assistant Attorney General of Arizona from 1965 to 1969. She then went to the Arizona Senate until 1973. She was elected to the Maricopa County Superior Court in 1974 and served there until 1979, when she began service in the Arizona State Court of Appeals.

On August 19, 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was formally nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan. On September 25, 1981, she officially became the first woman to serve as a Supreme Court Justice. She continued to serve until her retirement 25 years later.

Sandra was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama on August 12, 2009 and will forever be considered to be an inspiration to women.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

I am proud to say a few words about Frankie Sue del Papa who was born September 21, 1949 and is probably best known as the first woman in Nevada to be elected Attorney General. Frankie Sue attended the University of Nevada, Reno, where, in 1970, she also served as one of the first women to be student body president. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University School of Law. In 1986, she was elected as the first woman Secretary of State for Nevada and served in that capacity from 1987 to 1990. In 1990, she was elected the first woman Attorney General for the State of Nevada and served in that position until 2003. She is well-known, not only for her achievements and firsts as a woman in the State of Nevada, but also as a champion for the advancement of women, advocacy for domestic violence prevention and consumer fraud protection. She is also an active advocate for the arts, education and the environment.

I would like to thank you all for allowing us to share these stories and talk about these extraordinary women who have paved the way for all of us. As we celebrate Women's History Month and this Day of the Woman, I am honored to have been a part of this.

Senator Ford moved that the Senate recess until 4:45 p.m.
Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 12:21 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:05 p.m.
President Hutchison presiding.
Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblywomen Neal and Titus were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblywoman Neal invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear Chief Justice Michael A. Cherry

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

Senate in recess at 5:05 p.m.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:09 p.m.
President Hutchison presiding.
Quorum present.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate Roll.
All present except Senators Kieckhefer and Roberson, who were excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.
All present.

Mr. President appointed Senator Segerblom and Assemblyman Yeager to wait upon Chief Justice Michael A. Cherry and escort him to the Assembly chamber.

Chief Justice Cherry delivered his message.

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION, 2017

Governor Sandoval, Lieutenant Governor Hutchison, constitutional officers, Leader Ford, Speaker Frierson, Senator Roberson, Assemblyman Anderson, distinguished members of the Senate and Assembly, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, my son David, dear Cheryl, here we go. The state of the Nevada Judiciary is strong, professional, and independent.

It is a great honor for this transplant from Missouri, the "Show-Me" state, to stand before you as Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court to deliver this State of the Judiciary address. It is always a privilege for the Nevada Judiciary to join with the leadership of our Executive and

Legislative Branches at the Nevada statehouse. The justices and judges of Nevada renew our pledge as the Judicial Branch to work together for the benefit of every Nevadan.

When I came to Nevada from St. Louis 47 years ago, right out of Washington University Law School, there were 18 district court judges, a 5-member Supreme Court, and no Court of Appeals in our state. Today I am very proud to say that the Nevada Judiciary is composed of a 7-member Supreme Court, a 3-member Court of Appeals, 82 district court judges, some 26 senior judges and justices, and 97 limited jurisdiction judges, which include our justices of the peace and our municipal court judges. I want to tell everybody in this assembly, we could not have grown into this outstanding Judiciary without the backing of the members, past and present, of the Nevada State Legislature. For this vote of confidence, all my colleagues in our Judiciary thank each and every one of you. Furthermore, there exists a mutual respect between the three branches of our state government: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary. This fantastic working relationship is the envy of our sister states.

Let me now acknowledge and introduce my colleagues who serve with me on the Nevada Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. First of all, we have Michael Douglas, who will be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 2018. He is very active in the Access to Justice [Commission] and also was, of course, the first African-American Chief Justice. James Hardesty, who has done everything; you have seen him time and time again, and you are going to see him some more: the Guardianship Commission [Commission to Study the Administration of Guardianships in Nevada's Courts]; the pretrial release program; and many other functions, some of which I will cover in my address. Ron Parraguirre, my Basque cowboy poet, is my go-to guy whenever I need something. He assists me with the Supreme Court's Settlement Program so that we can resolve some cases without litigation and further appellate work. Unfortunately, Mark Gibbons is not here today. He is in Las Vegas as is Jerry Tao, who is in the Court of Appeals. I am going to skip you, Kris, and I am going to skip you, Lidia and Abbi; I am going to come back to you. And also we have Michael Gibbons, brother of Mark Gibbons. In his own right, he was the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the inaugural Court of Appeals. He served Douglas County as the district attorney, was a district judge for a number of years, and now is a member of the Court of Appeals.

Today, March 8, is International Women's Day. I need not tell this assembly about Women's Day. This is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. And boy, do we have gender parity in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. My good friend Kris Pickering, a fantastic trial lawyer, with her husband Steve Morris, an expert in civil litigation—and everybody knows my love of the criminal law—a fast learner of criminal law; what a great job she does each and every day for the citizens of Nevada. Lidia Stiglich, the newest member of our Supreme Court, is a former public defender, private practitioner, district court judge in Washoe County, and a tremendous guide for work in the Supreme Court. My good friend Abbi Silver, listen to this resume: district attorney, headed up the SVU. As if that was not enough, she was a municipal court judge, justice of the peace, district court judge, and has now been appointed by me for a four-year term as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. I just want to say this about my counterparts here: what an example to the females, young students, female students, and the whole state of Nevada. What a splendid example of brilliant judges and tremendous achievements by these three jurists. To all the young ladies of our state, I am so proud to call these three my colleagues. They are certainly the dynamic trio of the state of Nevada. Will you three stand and let's give them a round of applause please.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge Elizabeth Brown, the Clerk of the Supreme Court; Harriet Cummings, the Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court; Tom Harris, the Clerk of the Court of Appeals; Robin Sweet, the State Court Administrator, and her two magnificent Court Administrators, Assistant Court Administrators John McCormick, who is a champion of the rural Nevada, and Rick Stefani, who is the only one who can understand what Senator Mo Denis is saying about IT; Phaedra Kalicki, who is the Supervisor of our Supreme Court Legal Staff; Brandee Mooneyhan, the Reporter of Decisions; and last but not least my judicial assistant, my chamber assistant Jan Luevano, who has been with me for over ten years.

But never last and least are the hardworking and loyal employees of the appellate courts and Administrative Office of the Courts. Could you stand as a group and we can acknowledge you.

I worked for the county, I was an alternate municipal judge for over 20 years for the city, and I was in private practice for over 20 years. I had lots of employees over those years that I either supervised or worked with. But I have never seen such a group of dedicated, hardworking, and loyal employees as the folks who work with us in the appellate courts. You guys are great. Thank you so much for everything you do.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank Betsy Gonzales, Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial District, and Patrick Flanagan, Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District for their commitment and excellence in leadership of the two urban judicial districts. You talk about herding cats. The Eighth has 52 judges and the Second has 15 judges. I would also like to ask any of the members of the Nevada Judiciary in the audience to rise and be acknowledged. Your work for all Nevadans is outstanding.

I also wish to report to you on our appellate court. In total, Nevada, with a population of nearly 3 million people, has seven Supreme Court Justices and three Court of Appeals judges. I want to compare this to two states similar in population, Mississippi and Iowa. Both of these states use the push-down method. The push-down method means that all the cases come to the Supreme Court and then we push down certain cases to the Court of Appeals. Now again, remember what I said: We have three Court of Appeals judges. Mississippi has nine Supreme Court justices and ten judges on its Court of Appeals. Likewise, the state of Iowa, with a similar population as Nevada and the same push-down model that we have, has a seven-member Supreme Court, nine Court of Appeals judges, and four senior Court of Appeals judges. Now, Nevada still has roughly 1,600 pending cases before our appellate courts. Mississippi has approximately 100, and that is because of the number of Court of Appeals judges that they have assisting the Supreme Court. We're not going to be here this year asking, but I know that Jim Hardesty is going to be around in '19 or '21 to be saying that we need a northern panel of the Court of Appeals, so I just put that in your hat, and keep it.

We are thankful that the Court of Appeals was approved by the Nevadans because it has assisted us in reducing our caseload. Combined, Nevada's appellate courts were able to decrease the pending appellate caseload by 12 percent in 2016, an overall 18 percent decrease from two years ago. But compared to Mississippi, you can see how many more cases could be disposed of if we had additional Court of Appeals judges.

I can tell you we take our responsibility to provide justice very seriously, and we work hard to be innovative. I am proud to say we listen to those who use our services, and we look for ways to provide enhanced access to justice.

Last year I had the privilege of meeting Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan. She said something that epitomizes what we have been doing as the third branch of government: listening and then leading. She said, "[W]hat I've learned most is that no one has a monopoly on truth or wisdom. I've learned that we make progress by listening to each other, across every apparent political or ideological divide."

Listening to concerns and suggestions has led to many improvements in the Judiciary statewide. We have to listen and lead. Nevada's courts see all of society's ills and problems. Not only do we provide resolution to criminal, civil, family, and juvenile matters, we also aid people with substance abuse, mental health issues, housing foreclosures, and family crises. The Nevada Judiciary is on the front lines directly serving Nevadans.

Nevada's Judiciary has a long history of providing exceptional service to the citizens of our state. In fact, following statehood in 1864 when we had three Supreme Court Justices, they traveled the state hearing cases, providing the access to justice and considering the needs of our citizens. The traditions established by those Justices 153 years ago continue today as Nevada's Judiciary continues to protect the rights and liberties of individuals, impartially interpreting our laws and disposing of cases in a timely manner.

The fiscal realities of the past few years have required the Supreme Court to utilize new ways to sustain Nevada's third branch of government. Reduced resources have led the Judiciary to

discover alternative ways to deliver justice and maintain existing services. I am proud of our careful fiscal stewardship of the people's money.

The complexity of the issues reaching the Supreme Court continues to increase as the Nevada matures into a mixture of metropolitan cities, urban counties, and rural regions. Throughout its history, the Supreme Court has always met the challenge of providing timely resolution of cases to all Nevadans.

The *Nevada Constitution* grants authority to the Chief Justice, as the administrative head of the Nevada court system, to "Recall to active service any retired justice or judge of the court system who consents to such recall and who has not been removed or retired for cause or defeated for retention in office, and may assign him [or her] to appropriate temporary duty within the court system."

Our Senior Justice and Judge Program has proven to be a cost effective way to ensure that court cases can be heard in a timely fashion, even if the assigned judge is unavailable. Nevada is fortunate to have a number of senior justices and judges available whose experience is unmatched and who can step in, no matter what type of case is involved and where the need arises. I am looking forward to the addition of the district judges who are retiring in the future to become senior judges. These men and women will be a great asset to the Judiciary and in state of Nevada.

The Administrative Office of the Courts assigns senior justices and judges. Requests for assignment direct a specific senior justice or judge to a particular court for several reasons. They may be assigned for a durational amount of time; whenever a judicial vacancy occurs, such as when Stiglich left the bench in Washoe County; or if there is illness, any type of vacancy, mandatory judicial education, or retirement. Senior justices and judges may also hear specific cases due to recusal or disqualification or if a sitting judge has an unusually heavy caseload or congested docket.

The senior justices and judges hear civil and medical malpractice settlement conferences on a regular basis. On average, they hear between three and eight settlement conferences per week. Currently, settlement conferences are heard in the urban Second and Eighth Judicial Districts. Thanks to Jim Hardesty, settlement conferences have been expanded to the rural jurisdictions. Additionally, senior justices and judges hear short trials and settlement conferences every two weeks in the Eighth Judicial District Family Court.

Senior justices and judges also conduct specialty court programs in the district courts in the Second, Third, Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh [Judicial] Districts. Senior judges and justices conduct the drug and mental health courts in these rural areas. These programs succeed in providing alternatives to jail time for certain offenders and in assisting these offenders to become productive members of society. There are senior justices or judges actively serving the district courts. Their combined efforts provided assistance almost equivalent to six full-time judges for Nevada.

When I ran for the Supreme Court in 2006 when Justice Rose decided to retire, I ran unopposed except for a tough race against None of the Above. When I was elected, my mentor, Justice Mark Gibbons, suggested that our northern panel, which I was the presiding justice of, hold court in the rurals as well as Las Vegas and Reno so that I would get to know and love the entire state. We decided to hold court in various high schools and other venues. We heard actual cases, usually in front of high school government or social studies classes. Needless to say, the lawyers who participated in these cases loved the idea, since most lawyers are frustrated actors, and they liked the idea of displaying their talents to students. The presiding justice would allow the lawyers to let the audience know the facts of the case before arguments commenced, so that meant that the lawyers could use their entire argument time of 30 minutes arguing the law. When the court appeared at high schools, we would have in attendance not only students, but also local public officials and other dignitaries. After argument concluded, the panel or full court—sometimes the en banc court would go to high schools or other venues—they would have a Q and A, question and answer session, that included the participating lawyers. When I was the presiding justice, I made them stay. You have to stay and answer questions. The audience would love this portion of the session, although we could not discuss the case that was just argued. We have done these road shows all over the state, including but not limited to Ely, Elko, Panaca,

Tonopah, Douglas County, Yerington, Winnemucca, Pahrump, Fallon, Sparks, West Wendover, The National Judicial College, Boyd Law School, and numerous high schools in Las Vegas and Reno. It sounds like a Johnny Cash song. Needless to say, the publicity and good will gained during these road shows was overwhelming and was able to illustrate to the public the dynamics of our Judiciary.

The Access to Justice Commission—Justice Douglas and Justice Hardesty—assists us in providing legal services to everyone in the state. The Commission took on a task last year to develop a consistent set of legal forms for all rural counties. I would like to thank Judge Tod Young of Minden for heading up this effort. With the help of other members of that committee, Judge Young has completed a set of forms that self-represented litigants may use throughout the state. This fits into one of our goals: to support people who cannot afford an attorney so they can still access our courts. Access to Justice is comprised of 22 members from various legal and nonlegal backgrounds. It is one of our largest standing commissions. The goal is to promote equal justice for all Nevadans, regardless of their economic standing. The Commission encourages pro bono services by attorneys. I am pleased to report that 2,177 attorneys provided over 100,000 hours of no-fee, direct legal services to low-income clients. This is an excellent reflection on the high caliber of Nevada's attorneys. We are lucky to be surrounded by professionals who labor to build up our communities. Every December, we have a pro bono luncheon in Las Vegas, and we have lunch with 800 of our best friends. These are the attorneys who supply pro bono services, and we help give out the awards, and it is just a great thing. It is heartwarming to see the attorneys who do this. We are lucky to have the State Bar that we have.

Nevada has a long history of helping its residents get their day in court. This is incredible but in 1879, Nevada became the first state in the nation to authorize the appointment of attorneys in all criminal matters, including misdemeanors, and also provide payment for the attorneys' services. Thanks to the Nevada Legislature and the Nevada Supreme Court, we have a good history on our side. However, we still have work to do.

In our urban counties, a defendant can count on a public defender to provide prompt representation or a contract attorney. However, in the rural parts of our state, indigent defendants may sit in jail for an extended period of time waiting to speak to an attorney while witnesses' memories fade and investigative leads go cold. Even after that defendant is appointed an attorney, he or she may be one of several hundred clients, all vying at the same time for the attention of that single attorney. Nevada's rural attorneys simply cannot shoulder the state's obligations under the Sixth Amendment of the *United States Constitution* any longer. The financial burden increases as the U.S. Supreme Court continually clarifies and expands the obligations an attorney owes the indigent accused. We must do better at providing representation to rural defendants. Rural persons are just as deserving of representation as their urban neighbors. I encourage you to provide equal justice to rural individuals too. I head up the Indigent Defense Commission in the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Maupin had appointed me in 2007. We established professional standards, and we're looking at caseload standards throughout the state. But now the time has come, ladies and gentlemen of this Legislature, for an independent indigent defense commission. We will be presenting a bill to you to try and establish an independent indigent defense commission.

As I said, Nevada's courts see much of society's ills from the front lines and specialty courts are one area where we have met social needs head on. We are grateful for the Legislature's support in expanding these courts with a special appropriation of \$3 million in new funding, and we hope to get it again. The legislative money from the last session created four new DUI courts in Elko, Las Vegas, Winnemucca, and for those individuals living in Fallon, Yerington, and northern Mineral County. In addition, new drug, habitual offender, and veterans' courts were established in Boulder City, Carson City, East Fork, Henderson, Laughlin, Las Vegas, Mesquite, North Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks, and Winnemucca. This means more people have the chance at breaking the revolving door cycle of addiction and recidivism. Success of specialty courts means one thing—more funds for education. The overreaching goal of a specialty court is to support participants to achieve total abstinence from drugs or alcohol. These courts promote responsibility and accountability and teach people how to become productive law-abiding

citizens. This, in return, reduces criminal recidivism and provides for better, healthier communities. So, we are addressing a real need, and we appreciate your funding to expand those programs. Expanding specialty courts serves Nevadans, and I encourage you to continue providing support for these programs. We can keep people out of jails, give them a second chance, and improve our communities. Again, success in this area means more funds available for education.

Many of our courts are reaching out to our youth to provide them with support and inspiration. This is a heartwarming story. Just last month, the Las Vegas Youthful Offender Program celebrated its fortieth graduate. It is called the YO Program. This is a problem-solving court for participants between the ages of 18 and 24 who suffer with substance abuse dependency. It is the only court in the nation that requires family members to participate with their adult children in order for the addict to be accepted into the program. The court focuses on making the whole family healthy, not just the addicts who found their way into the criminal justice system. The participants learn how to maintain their sobriety. They are given tools to help them. To graduate, the participants must have a high school diploma or GED, and they must have successfully completed appropriate counseling; be employed; have established healthy, independent living; and have a savings account. Family members, as mandatory participants, learn about enabling and codependency and are armed with knowledge that 'No' can be a complete sentence. Addiction is a family disease, and YO Court's focus is on treating the family. With opioid deaths surpassing automobile accidents for the first time last year, there could be no time more crucial than now for courts like YO Court. I am so proud to say that present today, we have Chief Judge Cedric Kerns of the Las Vegas Municipal Court and his fortieth graduate of the YO Program, Nicholas C.

Last year, at-risk fifth graders in North Las Vegas joined Judge Natalie Tyrrell in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Kids in the Court program. Judge Tyrrell created the program in 2002 to educate students about the judicial system, law-related careers, and the importance of staying in school. The court had partnered with C. P. Squires, an at-risk school in North Las Vegas, to help students set new goals for themselves. With programs like this one, the Judiciary is doing much to lend a hand in civics education across the state. You know, not everybody can be successful in drug court or AA or any 12-step program, and thanks to the Governor and his program for opioid abuse and Justice Stiglich, who made a presentation there, judges across the state are now accepting medication-assisted treatment programs such as methadone. I am so proud today to have with us two people who have done so much in the Las Vegas community for those who are using methadone on a regular basis. I have been to some of their programs, and these people stand up and say I couldn't make it in drug court, couldn't make it on probation, but now I have made it on methadone. I have my family together, I have employment, and I haven't been arrested or committed any type of crime. And with me today is the founder of the Adelson methadone clinic, Dr. Miriam Adelson, and the director of that clinic, Dr. Shirley Linzy. Miriam and Shirley, will you please stand, and let's say hello to them. That's some happy news. Now I have a little bit of sad news for you.

While we have been listening to those who use the Judiciary, we heard the frustrations of many Nevadans. For instance, the Commission to Study the Administration of Guardianships in Nevada's Courts spent 16 months listening to the concerns of persons subject to guardianship, experts on reform, guardians, and judges. Some of the testimony was alarming and some of it heartbreaking. Thanks go out to Justice James Hardesty, Judge David Barker, and Judge David Hardy for bringing this matter to our attention. And thanks to many individuals in the Administrative Office of the Courts who assisted in this effort, particularly Stephanie Heying, who assembled the final report. The result of this Commission is a 236-page report with dozens of recommendations for changes in guardianship law, policy, and court rules. This list of recommendations now goes before this assembly, including a bill of rights for individuals subject to guardianship and other protections aimed at reform. To put the focus where it should be, on the protection of the individual, 16 state law and 14 judicial rule changes are proposed. We provide these as suggestions based on our listening to those involved. These

recommendations will go a long way to improve Nevada's guardianship system, and we encourage you to support these changes.

Another area where we have listened is the question of how do judges handle pretrial release. Frankly, our judges have been setting bail or releasing individuals in the blind. Let me explain. An individual comes to the court on a charge. Bail is set, and too often the person sits in jail waiting for their court date. Our judges do not know if the person is a risk to the community, and too many people have lost their jobs or their homes because they've had to wait in jail. In short, for the poor, bail means jail. Since the middle of 2015, we have been listening to people in the system to examine alternatives and improvements to Nevada's pretrial release system. I am pleased to say that a pilot program has been underway for nearly seven months in Clark, Washoe, and White Pine Counties. Judges are evaluating pretrial release based on evidence-based practices and risk assessment tools, and they are no longer in the dark. The pilot program has shown that risk assessment identifies the higher and lower risk defendants. This is a major reform that eventually may be expanded to all of Nevada. Again, I would like to thank staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts, particularly Jamie Gradick, and Justice Hardesty for chairing the study group. I think they deserve a round of applause.

On a happier note—finally, we took an active role in assisting persons in Clark County using the child welfare system. In conjunction with a mandate from the Supreme Court's Blue Ribbon for Kids Commission, the Eighth and Second Judicial [District] Courts implemented a one judge/one family case assignment model in the abuse and neglect case type. The Commission, chaired by my good friend who has left me—but at least we got Lidia in exchange—Nancy Saitta, who chairs this committee and showcases another example of the Judiciary listening to the concerns of people who work and participate in the child welfare system. This woman is the queen of adoptions and everything that has to do with foster care. And Nancy, what a job you've done. I know even though you retired and you are one of my senior judges and justices, you're still doing kids' work, and I know the Governor has appointed you and his own wife to handle some of these matters. Nancy, stand up and take a bow.

We are one of the few remaining western states to have judges ride a circuit. My good friend Judge Jim Shirley is the type of judge, covering the Eleventh Judicial District Court and traveling between Battle Mountain, Hawthorne, and Lovelock. In fact, he may be one of those people sprinting across our basins and ranges, and hopefully one who does not get tickets.

For long-term vacancies, we use senior judges to provide uninterrupted access to justice. However, sometimes an emergency takes place, keeping a judge from the bench too quickly for a senior judge appointment. So what has Judge Shirley done? He has been talking to Judge Tom Stockard of Fallon, and this will allow each judge to cover for each other in an emergency. It is another example of how our judges work together and find ways to provide services to their communities.

Judge Shirley also has been working—and this is incredible. This guy was a tough DA [district attorney], and I thought, Oh boy, let's see how he does as a district court judge. Listen to this. Judge Shirley also has been working with the prison system on developing resources to allow prisoners to type their pleadings, in lieu of the handwritten pleadings, and then efile them. That should help tremendously. The efilings system should help in the appeals process, similar to the helpful changes in the appellate cases from Washoe and Clark Counties as a result of their efilings systems. Jim, you are a beautiful person. Thank you for what you do.

This number shows our workload continues to grow. This is our Court, the Supreme Court. In 2016, 2,452 cases were filed in the Supreme Court, almost 2,500 cases. It goes on and on, and I have a feeling we are going to get an influx of people from California who can't take it anymore, and they are going to come to northern Nevada and southern Nevada, and we're going to have a lot more people. We will be well over 3 million pretty soon. In 2016, we had 2,500 cases that were filed in the Supreme Court. With the addition of the Nevada Court of Appeals, we were able to assign 637 cases to the Court of Appeals. Now, I am the Chief Justice and the Court has been in effect since 2015, and they had '16 to do a bunch of cases. They did almost 700 cases in '16. And now I am assigning cases. And Abbi Silver, Chief Judge Abbi Silver, that former DA,

that former municipal court judge, justice of the peace, district court judge—has promised me that if I give Mike and Abbi and Jerry a thousand cases, that they will be able to reduce our backlog so that justice will be swift in the state of Nevada. Good luck, Abbi. And Michael, I know you can do it.

Our trial courts also have been working hard to assure access to justice. Criminal filings increased by nearly 7 percent last year, with the primary cause a 13 percent increase in justice court criminal filings. Recent improvements in capturing data on civil matters have given the Judiciary a clearer picture of the types of civil cases impacting our courts. In particular, the district courts have improved the accuracy of assigning civil cases. This has led to speedier justice.

All of these developments are the result of efforts by the employees of the Nevada Judiciary who have worked hard to keep the judicial system up to date and accessible to Nevadans, and our success has been recognized by others. The Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts awarded the Administrative Office of the Courts with the Court Statistics Project Reporting Excellence Award in 2016. The award recognizes the Nevada Judiciary's work to improve caseload data reported to the National Center for State Courts. The Nevada statewide data model resulted in providing 92 percent publishable court statistics for the state's courts. This placed Nevada sixth in the nation for providing caseload statistics to the National Center for State Courts' national database. Publishable data is used for analysis by the Judiciary in learning how we can do a better job of providing access to justice.

The Nevada Association of Court Executives awarded the Administrative Office of the Courts with its 2015 Court of the Year Award. The award recognized the Judiciary for creating the Nevada Court of Appeals in less than two months and allowing the court to hear cases in January 2015. The Nevada Court of Appeals signified the start of a new era in Nevada justice, and one person really helped to usher this through in 2011 and 2013 so that the voters in 2014, after many tries and failures, were able to get a Court of Appeals. And of course, I am talking about no one other than the cookie man, Ben Graham. Now, in two short months, the staff of the Supreme Court implemented a brand new court, including but not limited to, setting up offices, computers, a case management system, budgets, court rules, filing procedures, and the investitures of the new judges. The completion of these tasks and many more enabled the Court of Appeals to commence operations on time and within budget. And again, the Nevada Supreme Court assigns cases to the Court of Appeals in a defunctive model. This was invented by Justice Hardesty and Justice Gibbons and then followed by Justice Parraguirre, and it is also being followed by me. And I tell my colleagues Gee, I thought maybe I could do something different. Jim, maybe it wasn't the best thing. Ron, maybe it wasn't the best thing. But what they've come up with, the way we were able to assign cases, is a magnificent thought and just works perfectly, as far as I'm concerned, and will reduce the caseload substantially over the next few years. The goal of the Court is to reduce the sizeable backlog in appellate cases and eventually shortening the time for resolution of all appeals in Nevada I want to say something else about my good friend Ben. He got everything through in 2011 so that then it could come to 2013—it was Michael in 2011 that ushered it through, Kris Pickering in 2013. But the person who was most responsible in 2013, of course, was Ben Graham. How many Republicans voted for the Court of Appeals? All of you. How many Democrats voted for the Court of Appeals? All of you. In other words, there was no gridlock when it came to the Court of Appeals to go to the voters. One hundred percent of those in the Senate and the Assembly voted for the Court of Appeals, and we thank you, thank you, thank you.

Now, two weeks ago, the Nevada Supreme Court and the Nevada Court of Appeals moved to a new courthouse in Las Vegas. We just couldn't take going to the seventeenth floor in elevators that didn't work or that would fall down. The building looks like a courthouse, from the statue of Lady Justice on the copper dome to the courtroom modeled after the first U.S. Supreme Courtroom. The new courthouse also features modern heating and cooling technology good enough for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold certification. The move from the Regional Justice Center will also save, Governor, you will like hearing this—approximately \$500,000 over the coming years in lease costs. Overall, the new courthouse will provide

additional space in a modern building. It is an impressive courthouse, and we invite you to visit. Jim Hardesty worked day and night to make sure that everything got taken care of with the Governor, with the county, with the Court, with the RJC, to make sure we could leave, and we did a couple of weeks ago. He did a magnificent job. This is a magnificent courthouse, and we are having a grand opening on March 27 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon—that's a Monday—and we're hoping the Speaker can be there and Leader can be there, and all of the assistants and everybody else to come and see this beautiful edifice. And we've got a landlord, and he's more than a landlord. Well, we've got a developer, and he's more than a developer—the guy who made sure that we have this courthouse—and he and his right hand are here today. I want to present to you an artist, Yohan Lowie, and his right hand, Brett Harrison.

The Nevada Judiciary is blessed with many extraordinary people who work diligently with honor and integrity. The people and programs we have highlighted this evening showcase just a fraction of the many accomplishments and efforts of the Judiciary to improve access to justice. Without these dedicated members of the Legislative and Executive Branches, the Judiciary would be unable to meet our responsibility to Nevada. As the Chief Justice and the representative of the Judiciary, I thank you for your assistance in supporting our vision for providing fair and effective justice to all Nevadans. This is a wonderful state. I have been here 47 years and never regretted moving from Missouri and being in Las Vegas until 2006 and then living here in Carson since 2007. There are many opportunities and great people here in southern Nevada and northern Nevada. And when I talk about the road show, I encourage all of my friends in the Assembly and the Senate from southern Nevada to take a ride in rural Nevada. It is fantastic. It is gorgeous. It is God's gift to our state. I was so happy that Mark Gibbons encouraged me to go from place to place. And whenever we wanted to rest, we never went to a gas station; we always went to a courthouse. We'd go and meet everybody in the courthouse in rural Nevada, and it was just a wonderful experience. Nevada's Judiciary is a reflection of what you want it to be. This is your Judiciary and your system of justice. Many of you have taken the time to visit the courthouses in your communities. You have seen firsthand how the Judiciary works to improve the lives of Nevadans. We invite you to continue visiting and helping us to improve the services so important to our state. We also invite you to a reception at the Court, the Supreme Court rotunda, after this address.

In conclusion, I again wish to thank the Legislature for the privilege and honor of delivering this State of the Judiciary address. This thank you comes from all my colleagues in our Judiciary, who deeply appreciate your dedication and service to our state. I know what a sacrifice it is to leave your family for the 120 days, and hopefully maybe not a special session, and we certainly appreciate the work you do. As members of this Battle Born State government, I want to end it by recalling the words of Senator Edward Kennedy. People ask when you look at your duties and responsibilities, How do you feel? And this is what I want to leave you with, what Kennedy said: "[The] work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die." God bless all of you.

Now I always have to do something different. My mother, may she rest in peace, always called me a rebel. I am honored at this time to introduce Christina Bourne to you. Christina is a 15-year veteran educator and currently teaches music and band at Mark Twain Elementary School. She is also a former Miss Nevada, and at my request, Christina will perform "God Bless America." Christina.

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

Motion carried.

The Committee on Escort escorted Chief Justice Cherry to the bar of the Assembly.

Senator Farley moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.
Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 6:01 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 6:07 p.m.
President pro Tempore Denis presiding.
Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Atkinson, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Deric Moffitt.

On request of Senator Cancela, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Trista Stewart.

On request of Senator Cannizzaro, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jamie Cogburn, Kristin Cogburn, Charles Jackson and Charmaine Rogers.

On request of Senator Denis, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to David Frommer.

On request of Senator Farley, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Dylan Besen, Ayden Cortez, Coral Delorenzis, Deanna Dishari, Graciella Harris, Vance Hoffman, Cindy Jensen, Samantha Jones, Ava-Jade Kern-Pena, Tate Morrison, Rylee O'Connell, Bo Reed, Austin Smith, Jim Smith, Ben Snorpp, Ian Stafford, Andrew Stout, Zachary Stout, Jeannine Swallie and Christa Vicchullo.

On request of Senator Ford, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Sean Stewart.

On request of Senator Gansert, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Corley Raper, Herb Santos, Jr. and Herb Santos, Sr.

On request of Senator Goicoechea, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Gary Jones, Ron Niman and Ed Wright.

On request of Senator Gustavson, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Chris Caluya, Fred Montes De Oca and Howard Wright.

On request of Senator Hammond, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Donnie Gibson.

On request of Senator Hardy, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jerald Anderson, Rick Hendrix, Brett Luccketta and Mike Young.

On request of Senator Harris, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Joel Santos and David Tanner.

On request of Senator Kieckhefer, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Will Leek.

On request of Senator Manendo, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Nadia Nguyen.

On request of Senator Parks, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Kenny Gibson.

On request of Senator Ratti, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Ardea Canepa-Rotoli and Marco Jimenez.

On request of Senator Settelmeyer, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Rick Ewing, Sandy Green, Mandi Hitt, Craig Kidwell, Eva Segerblom and Sharon Segerblom.

On request of Senator Spearman, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Ashley Pereza.

Senator Ford moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Approved:

MOISES DENIS
President pro Tempore of the Senate

Attest: CLAIRE J. CLIFT
Secretary of the Senate