

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49—ASSEMBLYMEN WILLIAMS, ARBERRY, PARKS, MCCLAIN, COLLINS, MANENDO, SEGERBLOM, GIBBONS, VON TOBEL, OHRENSCHALL, PRICE, MARVEL, BERMAN, NEIGHBORS, LEE, BUCKLEY, PERKINS, HETTRICK, CEGAVSKE, HUMKE, CHOWNING, DE BRAGA, MORTENSON, CLABORN, GUSTAVSON, ANGLE, KOIVISTO, PARNELL, TIFFANY, FREEMAN, BACHE, ANDERSON, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOLDWATER, THOMAS, CARPENTER, NOLAN, LESLIE, BROWER, EVANS, BEERS AND DINI

APRIL 23, 1999

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS NEAL, AMODEI, CARE, CARLTON, COFFIN, JACOBSEN, JAMES, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, O'CONNELL, O'DONNELL, PORTER, RAGGIO, RAWSON, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes civil rights pioneer Dr. James B. McMillan. (BDR R-1709)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~for omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing civil rights pioneer Dr. James B. McMillan.

- 1 WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature were saddened to
- 2 learn of the passing of civil rights pioneer Dr. James B. McMillan; and
- 3 WHEREAS, James B. McMillan was born on January 14, 1917, in
- 4 Mississippi, to James Milton McMillan and the former Rosalie Gay; and
- 5 WHEREAS, James B. McMillan graduated from the University of Detroit
- 6 where he was the first black to play on the school's football team; and
- 7 WHEREAS, James B. McMillan attended and received his Doctor of
- 8 Dental Surgery from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, the
- 9 country's first black medical college, and served his country in the Army
- 10 Dental Corps during World War II and the Korean War; and
- 11 WHEREAS, When Dr. McMillan moved to Las Vegas in the early 1950s,
- 12 he became the first black dentist in the State of Nevada; and

1 WHEREAS, At the time, the city was known as the “Mississippi of the
2 West” where blacks were welcome at the casinos and hotels as entertainers
3 and menial laborers, but not to gamble or socialize; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1960, in what is widely regarded as one of the most
5 historic moments in Las Vegas history, Dr. McMillan, then President of the
6 Las Vegas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of
7 Colored People, led the successful struggle to desegregate the town by
8 challenging the “Strip” and downtown hotels and casinos to purge
9 themselves of their racist policies; and

10 WHEREAS, On March 26, 1999, Clark County celebrated the 39th
11 anniversary of the deal brokered by James McMillan which led to the
12 desegregation of Las Vegas hotels and casinos; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to numerous stints as President of the Las Vegas
14 chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored
15 People, Dr. McMillan served as a member of the Clark County School
16 Board from 1992 to 1996, was founder of the Las Vegas Human Rights
17 Commission, was the first black to serve on the State Democratic Central
18 Committee, was appointed to the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada in
19 1971 by former Governor Mike O’Callaghan, served as past President of
20 the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce, was a member of Alpha Phi
21 Alpha fraternity and had an elementary school named in his honor in
22 northwest Las Vegas; and

23 WHEREAS, This “champion of the underdog,” in addition to his passion
24 for the civil rights movement, was an active lobbyist for more equal
25 representation of minorities in Clark County government and an advocate
26 for better treatment, housing and transportation for seniors, worked to
27 register blacks to vote and was instrumental in getting several schools built
28 in west Las Vegas; and

29 WHEREAS, Last year, Dr. McMillan’s autobiography, *Fighting Back: A
30 Life in the Struggle for Civil Rights* was released; and

31 WHEREAS, The passing of this civil rights pioneer on March 20, 1999,
32 left behind a city whose racial outlook has changed dramatically, in large
33 part through Dr. McMillan’s own stubborn, courageous efforts; and

34 WHEREAS, Dr. McMillan is survived by his beloved wife, Marie,
35 daughter, Jarmilla Arnold of Las Vegas, four sons, James B. McMillan III,
36 Chris Bramley and Jeffrey McMillan, all of Las Vegas, and Jack Daly of
37 Sedro Woolley, Washington, and several grandchildren and great-
38 grandchildren; now, therefore, be it

39 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE
40 CONCURRING, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada
41 Legislature convey their sympathies and condolences to Dr. James
42 McMillan’s wife, Marie, and his children; and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That Dr. James McMillan will long be remembered for his
- 2 commitment to the struggle for civil rights and racial equality; and be it
- 3 further
- 4 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a
- 5 copy of this resolution to Dr. McMillan's loving wife, Marie.

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