

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

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

FILE NUMBER.....

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

WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature were saddened to learn of the passing of civil rights pioneer Dr. James B. McMillan; and

WHEREAS, James B. McMillan was born on January 14, 1917, in Mississippi, to James Milton McMillan and the former Rosalie Gay; and

WHEREAS, James B. McMillan graduated from the University of Detroit where he was the first black to play on the school’s football team; and

WHEREAS, James B. McMillan attended and received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, the country’s first black medical college, and served his country in the Army Dental Corps during World War II and the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, When Dr. McMillan moved to Las Vegas in the early 1950s, he became the first black dentist in the State of Nevada; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In addition to numerous stints as President of the Las Vegas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dr. McMillan served as a member of the Clark County School Board from 1992 to 1996, was founder of the Las Vegas Human Rights Commission, was the first black to serve on the State Democratic Central

Committee, was appointed to the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada in 1971 by former Governor Mike O'Callaghan, served as past President of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce, was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and had an elementary school named in his honor in northwest Las Vegas; and

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That Dr. James McMillan will long be remembered for his commitment to the struggle for civil rights and racial equality; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. McMillan's loving wife, Marie.

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