

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70—ASSEMBLYMEN CEGAVSKE, ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY, BACHE, BEERS, BERMAN, BROWER, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CHOWNING, CLABORN, COLLINS, DE BRAGA, DINI, EVANS, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOLDWATER, GUSTAVSON, HETTRICK, HUMKE, KOIVISTO, LEE, LESLIE, MANENDO, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MORTENSON, NEIGHBORS, NOLAN, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PARNELL, PERKINS, PRICE, SEGERBLUM, THOMAS, TIFFANY, VON TOBEL AND WILLIAMS

MAY 21, 1999

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Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Commends Henry C. Hodges Sr. for his valuable contributions toward research and development in field of vehicular transportation. (BDR R-1411)

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

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commending Henry C. Hodges Sr. for his valuable contributions toward research and development in the field of vehicular transportation.

- 1 WHEREAS, Born in 1923, Henry C. Hodges Sr. was raised in a family
- 2 whose father demanded an interest in science and whose mother demanded
- 3 a love of animals and the West; and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 1929, the Hodges' family pioneered the Jumping Horse
- 5 Ranch in Montana and, at the age of 8 years, Henry Hodges began his
- 6 career in vehicular mobility when he started his first trucking company on
- 7 the ranch with three wheelbarrows, one of which was equipped with a
- 8 pneumatic low pressure tire to make spring cleaning of the corrals easier;
- 9 and

1 WHEREAS, World War II interrupted the collegiate career of Henry
2 Hodges, but the invaluable experience he gained as a member of the 10th
3 Mountain Division of the United States Army stimulated his interest in
4 developing off-highway wheel and tracked vehicles to move infantrymen
5 into combat; and

6 WHEREAS, From 1953 to 1957, Henry Hodges managed the Detroit
7 Arsenal Test Operation of the United States Army at Camp Bullis, Texas,
8 where he directed the testing and development of combat vehicles from
9 jeeps to main battle tanks which required the establishment of controlled
10 and repeatable test courses on beach heads, desert dunes, mountain trails
11 and mud pits; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1957, the Detroit Arsenal Test Operation was closed, and
13 the Texas test programs were transferred to Nevada where the Nevada
14 Automotive Test Center was founded and where Henry Hodges and a four-
15 man crew continued the essential U.S. Army wheel and track development
16 tests which grew to include more than 60 employees by 1968; and

17 WHEREAS, Henry Hodges worked extensively with the military and the
18 United States Forest Service on the use of Central Tire Inflation Systems,
19 whereby tire pressures are reduced or increased from inside the vehicle
20 based on the condition of the road being traversed to enhance tire traction,
21 reduce road deterioration and diminish vehicle maintenance costs; and

22 WHEREAS, During the 1960s, Henry Hodges developed and
23 implemented the methodology for testing the traction of tires on hard
24 surfaces, soft soil and winter environments, and by using state-of-the-art
25 recording instrumentation, he was able to measure and record for the first
26 time a complete biaxial traction curve in these materials; and

27 WHEREAS, In the early 1970s, Henry Hodges developed Vehicle
28 Dynamics Seminars, which teach students how a vehicle reacts during a tire
29 blowout and how a person can control the situation, and these training
30 classes, which are now promoted by the American Trucking Association,
31 have included participants from law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and
32 truck and school bus drivers from around the country; and

33 WHEREAS, By 1972, the ever-expanding Test Center had moved all of
34 its testing to the state-of-the-art proving ground facility developed on the
35 historic Break-A-Heart Ranch near Fort Churchill, Nevada, which currently
36 employs more than 200 people; and

37 WHEREAS, In 1976, Henry Hodges built a Dynamic Force Measurement
38 Vehicle that measures the forces acting on the vehicle and tire, and this
39 vehicle proved to be the basis for a series of traction vehicles built to
40 measure both road surfaces, and tire braking and traction in a variety of
41 environments, including mud, snow, ice, and wet and dry pavement; and

1 WHEREAS, At the Nevada Automotive Test Center, Henry Hodges
2 directed most of the original test and development efforts of the High
3 Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle which was built for the United
4 States Army, and subsequent demonstrations of this vehicle, nicknamed the
5 "Hummer" and other military and commercial vehicles brought many
6 visitors to Nevada from other states and foreign countries; and

7 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, during Operations Desert Shield and Desert
8 Storm, Henry Hodges worked extensively with the United States Army
9 providing on-site advice and procedures to enhance the mobility and
10 reliability of vehicles and tires for the troops in the field; and

11 WHEREAS, Henry Hodges was presented with the Commander's Award
12 for Public Service and a Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian
13 Service by the Department of the Army to commemorate the work he did
14 for the United States Army; and

15 WHEREAS, Based on Henry Hodges' technical expertise, the Nevada
16 Automotive Test Center was able to develop the WesTrack project, an
17 experimental road test facility, for the Federal Highway Administration at
18 the proving ground in Nevada, including the longest research project on
19 asphalt mixes in the world which has prompted visits to Nevada from
20 thousands of pavement engineers from around the world; and

21 WHEREAS, The WesTrack project also led to the development of the
22 driverless vehicle technology that has achieved more than 800,000 miles of
23 heavy truck operation, all done by computer, which is the highest number
24 of driverless vehicle operating miles ever achieved in the world; and

25 WHEREAS, Henry Hodges is one of the world's leading experts in
26 transportation research and development, including tire and vehicle testing
27 for both governmental and private sector clients; and

28 WHEREAS, His Nevada Automotive Test Center is recognized for its
29 commitment to providing unique, timely, creative, useful and cost-effective
30 solutions with knowledge, excellence and integrity for transportation
31 partners worldwide; now, therefore, be it

32 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE
33 CONCURRING, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada
34 Legislature do hereby commend Henry C. Hodges Sr. for his achievements
35 related to product integrity, performance and safety, his contributions to the
36 field of transportation research and development, and his dedication and
37 allegiance to his state and country; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a
39 copy of this resolution to Henry C. Hodges Sr.