

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75—ASSEMBLYMEN WILLIAMS, ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY, BACHE, BEERS, BERMAN, BROWER, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CEGAVSKE, 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, SEGERBLOM, THOMAS, TIFFANY
AND VON TOBEL

MAY 27, 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—Commends William H. “Bob” Bailey and Anna Bailey for their years of public activism and service and contributions toward social and economic change in this state. (BDR R-1761)

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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 William H. “Bob” Bailey and Anna Bailey for their years of public activism and service and contributions toward social and economic change in this state.

- 1 WHEREAS, William H. “Bob” Bailey was born in Detroit, Michigan, on
- 2 February 14, 1927, into a family with a strong musical tradition, and he
- 3 grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, where he learned to sing in church choirs; and
- 4 WHEREAS, When young William Bailey embarked on his own vocal
- 5 career as part of a quartet called the Four Notes, he adopted the nickname
- 6 “Bob” to avoid confusion with his cousin, Bill Bailey, who was also a
- 7 professional entertainer; and

1 WHEREAS, Bob Bailey pursued his ambition to be an international
2 lawyer by attending and graduating from the highly-respected Morehouse
3 College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite his scholastic achievements, Bob Bailey's love of
5 music took center stage when he was hired by Count Basie to become one
6 of the two featured singers with the Count Basie Orchestra, affording him
7 the opportunity to have three hit records; and

8 WHEREAS, It was during this time with Count Basie that he met and
9 married the lovely and talented Anna Louis Porter who became his partner
10 and loyal supporter in all his future endeavors; and

11 WHEREAS, Anna Porter was born in Savannah, Georgia, grew up in New
12 York City and, inspired by her mother's creative survival skills and
13 utilizing her own sparkling personality, became a performer at the
14 legendary Apollo Theatre and eventually moved on to Broadway where she
15 performed with legends such as Louis Armstrong, Pearl Bailey, Duke
16 Ellington and Count Basie; and

17 WHEREAS, Anna Porter's talent, captivating beauty and gracious
18 personality earned her nationwide fame and led her to London, England, to
19 perform at the London Palladium for 6 months, and from there to Las
20 Vegas as a member of the chorus line at the Moulin Rouge, a casino that
21 featured a show with all African-American entertainers; and

22 WHEREAS, The breakup of Count Basie's big band in 1950 gave Bob
23 Bailey the opening to move on to the new medium of television, and in
24 preparation, he attended the School of Radio and Television in New York
25 City; and

26 WHEREAS, Bob Bailey's break into television did not occur until after
27 he worked in Las Vegas as a co-producer and master of ceremonies at the
28 Moulin Rouge, the only casino at that time which was open to everyone in
29 what was a very segregated city; and

30 WHEREAS, The television show sponsored by the Moulin Rouge with
31 Bob Bailey as its host was canceled when the Moulin Rouge closed after
32 only 6 months, but Hank Greenspun, who owned KLAS-Channel 8,
33 continued the program that was the first to be produced, acted in and
34 directed by African-American talent and the first to be sponsored by
35 businesses owned by African Americans; and

36 WHEREAS, While he was pioneering the way for African Americans in
37 the television industry as a current events talk show host with KLAS and a
38 newscaster and variety show host with KTNV-Channel 13, Bob Bailey also
39 wrote editorials for the *Las Vegas Voice*, the local African-American
40 newspaper, and authored a column for the *Las Vegas Sun*; and

41 WHEREAS, Bob Bailey's high profile after only 2 years in Las Vegas led
42 to his appointment as the local chairman of the Urban Renewal Advisory
43 Commission in 1956, which was followed by numerous other

1 appointments, including an appointment by Governor Grant Sawyer in
2 1961 to the commission established by the Legislature to study the extent of
3 discrimination against minorities in Nevada; and

4 WHEREAS, Bob Bailey's work investigating job opportunities for the
5 Commission made him a natural choice to direct a federally encouraged
6 Manpower Services program that trained minorities in jobs traditionally
7 reserved for whites and, as a result of Bob's determination and persistent
8 recruitment of assistance from casino executives and managers, opened up
9 more than 1,000 jobs to minorities in less than 2 years; and

10 WHEREAS, To augment the meager income from his television career,
11 Bob Bailey became a real estate broker and developer, and in 1964 he and
12 his wife, Anna, opened a club in West Las Vegas named the Sugar Hill,
13 which became an after-hours hangout for the next 25 years for such big
14 name entertainers as Sammy Davis, Jr., Johnny Carson and Duke Ellington,
15 and, during that period, employed over 500 African Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, In the mid-1960s, Bob and Anna Bailey also bought the riot-
17 damaged West Owens Shopping Center and converted much of it into the
18 Pan-Afro Auditorium, a move that continued to build the economic growth
19 and employment of the African-American community in Las Vegas; and

20 WHEREAS, Bob Bailey later established the Nevada Economic
21 Development Company, which helped minority businesses obtain \$300
22 million in loans and lines of credit over 19 years; and

23 WHEREAS, Bob Bailey's success in this venture led to a job in
24 Washington, D.C., as an associate director and, later, deputy director of the
25 Minority Business Development Agency, which included the responsibility
26 of overseeing a \$66 million national budget and helping to report to the
27 United States Congress on its work; and

28 WHEREAS, Anna Bailey encouraged her husband to accept the
29 appointment at the United States Department of Commerce and for the 4
30 years during his absence managed the family business, including the
31 development and operation of the Baby Grand Night Club, which they had
32 acquired just prior to Bob's appointment, and continued her role as the
33 mother of their two children, Kimberly and John; and

34 WHEREAS, Being homesick for Nevada, Bob Bailey declined the offer
35 to stay in Washington after President George Bush left office and is
36 currently concentrating on his New Ventures Inc., which has been awarded
37 a contract to certify local businesses as qualified to participate in a new
38 Small Business Administration program; and

39 WHEREAS, Anna Bailey's boundless energy has made her a vital part of
40 various community organizations and kept her beside her husband through
41 all their commitments and successes for the past 48 years; and

42 WHEREAS, Together Bob and Anna Bailey raised two college graduates,
43 now successful in their own right, John Robert Bailey, an attorney with

1 Lionel, Sawyer & Collins, and Kimberly Ann Bailey-Tureaud, a minority
2 business developer; now, therefore, be it
3 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE
4 CONCURRING, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada
5 Legislature do hereby commend and express their heartfelt gratitude to
6 William H. "Bob" Bailey and Anna Bailey for all their efforts to help make
7 Nevada a place where persons of all races and diverse backgrounds can live
8 together and prosper together; and be it further
9 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a
10 copy of this resolution to Bob and Anna Bailey.

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