

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45—SENATORS RAGGIO, AMODEI, CARE, CARLTON, COFFIN, JACOBSEN, JAMES, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, O’CONNELL, O’DONNELL, PORTER, RAWSON, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

MAY 12, 1999

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN DINI, ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY, BACHE, BEERS, BERMAN, BROWER, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CEGAVSKE, CHOWNING, CLABORN, COLLINS, DE BRAGA, 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

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes Nevada sports legend William Wesley Morris. (BDR R-399)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing Nevada sports legend William Wesley Morris.

- 1 WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature were deeply
- 2 saddened by the passing of long-time Las Vegas resident and Nevada sports
- 3 legend William “Wildcat” Morris on July 17, 1998; and
- 4 WHEREAS, William Wesley Morris was born in Enid, Oklahoma, on
- 5 September 13, 1927, and moved to Las Vegas to live with his sister Sheila
- 6 in 1937, later referring to himself jokingly as a “wedding present” for his
- 7 sister and her new husband; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Bill Morris was educated in the Las Vegas school system
- 9 and developed an ardent love for the game of football that culminated in his
- 10 being voted Most Valuable Player on the 1944 Wildcat team of Las Vegas

1 High, which ended its incredible season without having been beaten, tied or
2 even scored on; and

3 WHEREAS, Bill Morris enrolled in the University of Nevada, Reno, in
4 1945, and because of his enthusiasm for his former football powerhouse,
5 was affectionately given the nickname "Wildcat" by fellow students, a
6 name that stayed with him throughout his life; and

7 WHEREAS, After graduating from the University with a degree in
8 physical education and serving in the Korean War, "Wildcat" Morris
9 worked for Senator Pat McCarran and Senator Alan Bible in Washington,
10 D.C., while earning a law degree from American University, where he also
11 met his future wife, Vivienne Mae Potter; and

12 WHEREAS, During his career, Bill Morris demonstrated his diverse
13 abilities by practicing as an attorney, acting as a municipal judge and a
14 special deputy attorney general, owning and co-owning hotel-casinos, and
15 serving as a University Regent and a member of the Las Vegas Convention
16 and Visitors Authority; and

17 WHEREAS, Unselfishly giving of himself and his time, Bill Morris
18 endeared himself to many as a noteworthy civic leader by establishing
19 various athletic organizations, serving as president of several such
20 organizations, securing federal funding for the Thomas and Mack Center
21 and Lawlor Events Center, and raising money for scholarships and
22 numerous local charities in Las Vegas; and

23 WHEREAS, Among the multiple honors awarded to Bill Morris were his
24 being named a Distinguished Nevadan at the 1978 graduation ceremonies
25 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, being named Distinguished Citizen
26 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, receiving the Glen
27 "Jake" Lawlor Award for outstanding support of athletics at the University
28 of Nevada, Reno, and being inducted into several athletic halls of fame; and

29 WHEREAS, Devotion to his wife and children, dedication to his
30 community and performance of numerous quiet, thoughtful acts of kindness
31 to fellow Nevadans elevated Bill Morris as a role model; now, therefore, be
32 it

33 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY
34 CONCURRING, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada
35 Legislature express their heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to the
36 family and friends of Bill Morris; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That Bill "Wildcat" Morris will long be remembered as one
38 of the most popular and influential residents of the State of Nevada; and be
39 it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy
2 of this resolution to Bill's wife of 43 years, Vivienne Morris, and his
3 daughters Dawn Dudas and Wesley Morris, all of Las Vegas, to his son
4 William Morris of Reno, and to his daughter Jaymie Bodensteiner of
5 Flagstaff, Arizona.

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