

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

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, Segerblom, Thomas, Tiffany, Von Tobel and Williams

FILE NUMBER.....

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

WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature were deeply saddened by the passing of long-time Las Vegas resident and Nevada sports legend William “Wildcat” Morris on July 17, 1998; and

WHEREAS, William Wesley Morris was born in Enid, Oklahoma, on September 13, 1927, and moved to Las Vegas to live with his sister Sheila in 1937, later referring to himself jokingly as a “wedding present” for his sister and her new husband; and

WHEREAS, Bill Morris was educated in the Las Vegas school system and developed an ardent love for the game of football that culminated in his being voted Most Valuable Player on the 1944 Wildcat team of Las Vegas High, which ended its incredible season without having been beaten, tied or even scored on; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Unselfishly giving of himself and his time, Bill Morris endeared himself to many as a noteworthy civic leader by establishing various athletic organizations, serving as president of several such organizations, securing federal funding for the Thomas and Mack Center

and Lawlor Events Center, and raising money for scholarships and numerous local charities in Las Vegas; and

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

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

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

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

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

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