

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18—ASSEMBLYMEN ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY, BACHE, BEERS, BERMAN, BROWER, BROWN, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CEGAVSKE, CHOWNING, CLABORN, COLLINS, DE BRAGA, DINI, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOLDWATER, GUSTAVSON, HETTRICK, HUMKE, KOIVISTO, LEE, LESLIE, MANENDO, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MORTENSON, NEIGHBORS, NOLAN, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PARNELL, PERKINS, PRICE, SMITH, TIFFANY, VON TOBEL AND WILLIAMS

MARCH 27, 2001

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS RAGGIO, TITUS, AMODEI, CARE, CARLTON, COFFIN, JACOBSEN, JAMES, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, O'CONNELL, O'DONNELL, PORTER, RAWSON, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes former Assemblywoman Jan Evans. (BDR R-803)

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

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing former Assemblywoman Jan Evans.

- 1 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2000, flags throughout the State of Nevada
- 2 were lowered to half-mast in honor of the passing of one of this state's
- 3 most beloved and accomplished legislators, Jan Evans; and
- 4 WHEREAS, If ever there was a time when a person's passing initiated a
- 5 celebration of life, in addition to creating a cause to mourn an irreplaceable
- 6 loss, the passing of Jan Evans was such a time; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Although few were aware of it, after her birth in Cleveland,
- 8 Ohio, Jan grew up in foster homes, where her closest family and best
- 9 friends were the animals in the barn, a circumstance that in no way
- 10 embittered her, but rather caused her to work passionately on issues such as
- 11 child abuse, domestic violence, education and juvenile justice to protect the
- 12 rights of children; and



\* A C R 1 8 \*

1 WHEREAS, After putting herself through the University of Northern  
2 Colorado, Jan taught in the Denver public schools until she moved to Reno  
3 in 1969, where she extended her education by earning a master's degree in  
4 sociology from the University of Nevada, Reno; and

5 WHEREAS, After moving to Reno, Jan performed volunteer work in the  
6 community, and even before she began her career as a public servant upon  
7 being elected in 1986 to represent the residents of Sparks District 30 in the  
8 Assembly, she influenced the legislative process in the State of Nevada by  
9 spending time as a volunteer lobbyist; and

10 WHEREAS, During her tenure as an Assemblywoman, Jan distinguished  
11 herself by attaining the distinction of highest-ranking woman in the  
12 Assembly while serving as a member of the Assembly Committee on Ways  
13 and Means and the Interim Finance Committee each session, as Vice Chair  
14 of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means for three sessions, as  
15 Committee Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and  
16 Assistant Majority Floor Leader during the 1991 session, as Cospeaker pro  
17 Tempore during the 1995 session and as Speaker pro Tempore during the  
18 1997 and 1999 sessions; and

19 WHEREAS, As the primary sponsor of many important pieces of  
20 legislation that will touch lives far into the future, Jan Evans built a legacy  
21 which can never die as she worked diligently to secure the passage of bills  
22 to increase money for victims of domestic violence, for protective services  
23 for children, for libraries, for treatment of AIDS and for programs for adult  
24 literacy; and

25 WHEREAS, Jan also sponsored bills to help equip pupils with the  
26 necessary skills for transition from school to work, to upgrade services  
27 relating to substance abuse and mental health, to accomplish long-term  
28 financial analysis and planning for our state, and to facilitate the use of  
29 money from federal tobacco settlements; and

30 WHEREAS, Jan will be especially remembered and admired for her  
31 courage and diligence in working for issues relating to women and children  
32 because, as one of her legislative colleagues recalled, "She cared about  
33 those issues at a time when they were not popular" and "to take on things  
34 like domestic violence was very unpopular, but she was very brave"; and

35 WHEREAS, Colleagues also remember Jan as one who was always  
36 prepared and had her facts at hand, and they fondly recall the image of her  
37 slowly lowering her head and looking over her colorful glasses to "scold"  
38 anyone who came unprepared for a meeting of her committee; and

39 WHEREAS, In the political arena where the ability to unite those with  
40 diverse opinions looms awesome, this great lady was recognized as a  
41 builder of bridges toward consensus and as a "power-sharer" who often did  
42 most of the work on a project but was the first to offer thanks to everyone  
43 who helped; and

44 WHEREAS, Throughout the seven terms Jan served in the Assembly, her  
45 dedication to the residents of the State of Nevada never waned, even during  
46 her struggle with cancer, as evidenced by the calls she made from her  
47 hospital bed after surgery to determine the progress of legislation that was  
48 important to her; and



1 WHEREAS, Proving herself to be a powerful force not only as a  
2 legislator, Jan revealed her strength of character and devotion to others  
3 through the massive amount of time she spent helping such organizations  
4 as the Advisory Council of the Committee to Aid Abused Women, Nevada  
5 Women's Fund, Women's Health Initiative, KNPB TV, Sparks Heritage  
6 Foundation and Sparks Community Chamber of Commerce, in addition to  
7 her role as the Director of Development for the University of Nevada  
8 School of Medicine; and

9 WHEREAS, The receipt of such awards as the Thornton Peace Prize from  
10 the University of Nevada, Reno, the Women Helping Women Award from  
11 the Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows, the Hannah  
12 Humanitarian Award from the Committee to Aid Abused Women, the  
13 National Merit Award from the State Democratic Leaders Association, the  
14 Governor's Mental Health Leadership Award, the Toll Fellowship from the  
15 Council of State Governments, the Mike O'Callaghan Humanitarian  
16 Award from the Truckee Meadows Human Services Association, the  
17 People's Guardian Award, the Women's Role Model Award and  
18 posthumous induction into the Hall of Fame of the Nevada Women's Fund  
19 cannot express the gratitude she deserves; and

20 WHEREAS, In spite of her long hours of serious work, Jan also had a  
21 lighter side, as evidenced by the recollection of her close friend Sue  
22 Wagner, former Lieutenant Governor of Nevada, when she smiled about  
23 times she and Jan, as two of the few Cleveland Indian fans in this area,  
24 would pretend they were announcers and broadcast games to each other  
25 over the telephone; and

26 WHEREAS, Jan Evans, said the Reverend John Ruby, who conducted her  
27 funeral service, "lived not only with passion for issues, but compassion for  
28 people"; and

29 WHEREAS, Perhaps Dr. Robert Daugherty, Dean of the University of  
30 Nevada School of Medicine best summed up our feelings when he  
31 eulogized, "What do you say when an angel goes to heaven? Nevada has  
32 lost part of its soul and those of us left can only hope to show each other  
33 the respect and provide the help that Jan provided every day. In the office  
34 or in the Legislature, she was always looking after someone other than  
35 herself. Her behind-the-scenes work on behalf of all of us is indestructible,  
36 and the results will live for a long time."; and

37 WHEREAS, Jan's presence will be sorely missed, both in the Legislature  
38 and in all the places she touched, because as everyone who knew her  
39 acknowledges, Jan was a completely selfless champion of those who were  
40 unable to fight for themselves; now, therefore, be it

41 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE  
42 CONCURRING, That the members of the 71st legislative session offer their  
43 sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of  
44 Jan Evans, a woman who endeared herself to everyone she knew,  
45 especially to those of us with whom she served; and be it further

46 RESOLVED, That the name Jan Evans has become, and will always  
47 remain, synonymous with compassion, courage and integrity, and the  
48 person Jan Evans will always be alive in our hearts and minds; and be it  
49 further



1       RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit  
2 a copy of this resolution to Jan's son, Robert Evans, and her daughter,  
3 Tracey Heath.

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