

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8—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, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Perkins, Price, Smith, Tiffany, Von Tobel and Williams

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FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Recognizing March 2, 2001, as “Read Across America” Day in Nevada in commemoration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday.

WHEREAS, Theodor Seuss Geisel was born on March 2, 1904, in Springfield, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Theodor Seuss Geisel graduated from Dartmouth College in 1925 and was pursuing a doctorate in English literature at Oxford University when he returned from Europe in 1927 and began writing humorous articles and creating cartoons for various magazines; and

WHEREAS, The first children’s book written by Theodor Seuss Geisel, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, was rejected by 43 publishers until, in 1937, a friend published the book for him, the first step in a career that would change the world of children’s literature forever; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1954, *Life* magazine published a report concerning illiteracy among school children, stating that, among other things, children were having trouble learning to read because the books were boring; and

WHEREAS, This comment inspired Theodor Seuss Geisel’s publisher, Bennett Cerf, to compile a list of 400 words that he felt were important, and he asked Mr. Geisel to cut the list to 250 words and use only those words to write a book that would excite children; and

WHEREAS, Using 220 of the words given to him, Mr. Geisel wrote *The Cat in the Hat*, which became the prototype for Beginner Books, the popular Random House series that combines engaging stories with outrageous illustrations and playful sounds to teach basic reading skills; and

WHEREAS, A few years later, Bennett Cerf bet Mr. Geisel \$50 that he couldn’t write an entire book using only 50 words, and from that challenge came the famous children’s book *Green Eggs and Ham*, which is familiar to almost everyone who has ever had contact with a child; and

WHEREAS, From that point on, Theodor Seuss Geisel became known as "Dr. Seuss," and his philosophy that "Children want the same things we want: To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained, and delighted" was the inspiration that would make him the best-selling author of children's books in the world; and

WHEREAS, Brilliant, playful and always respectful of children, Dr. Seuss received the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for his lifetime contribution to the education and enjoyment of America's children and their parents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seuss died on September 24, 1991, but his legacy of children's books will live forever as an inspiration to children everywhere to learn to read and to share in the laughter, enjoyment and knowledge that a book can provide; and

WHEREAS, In honor of Dr. Seuss and the joy of reading, the National Education Association has designated March 2, 2001, as "Read Across America" Day and has called upon every child to read with a caring adult on this day in honor of what would have been Dr. Seuss's 97th birthday; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That March 2, 2001, is hereby recognized as "Read Across America" Day in Nevada in commemoration of Dr. Seuss's birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That children and adults are encouraged to read a favorite book together on this date to share the joy of reading; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Elaine Lancaster, President of the Nevada State Education Association, and Ken Lange, Executive Director of the Nevada State Education Association.