

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15—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

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Beers, Anderson, Angle, Arberry, Bache, 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

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

WHEREAS, In 1784, only 8 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the idea for the formation of chambers of commerce in the United States originated; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, the first chamber was organized, and in 1911, the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce was established; and

WHEREAS, For the past 89 years, the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has proudly served the Las Vegas businesses, as well as the community as a whole, and is now the fourth largest chamber of commerce in the nation, with a membership of more than 6,400 business professionals and a trained, professional staff of 55; and

WHEREAS, The comprehensive mission of this body of businessmen is to be “a business organization that protects, fosters, and enhances the success of our membership through a focused, collaborative effort”; and

WHEREAS, In fulfilling that mission, the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce identifies community needs, problems and opportunities, and then develops programs that satisfy those needs, solve those problems and seize those opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Notable past accomplishments in attaining the goals of the Chamber include obtaining the first Federal Building and Post Office for Las Vegas in 1924, creating the Livewire Fund to promote Las Vegas in 1944, leading in the formation of the Las Vegas Valley Water District in 1945, helping establish the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority in 1953 and founding the United Way of Southern Nevada in 1955; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber not only serves existing businesses by sponsoring over 100 events each year, including seminars, workshops, expos, campaigns, general-membership luncheons, new-member welcomes, mixers and other gatherings, but also encourages entrepreneurs and offers valuable assistance to businesses that are new to the area; and

WHEREAS, Efforts abound to encourage leadership on the cutting edge of the business world through Chamber programs such as those to respond to the special needs of home-based and micro businesses; and

WHEREAS, To maintain Las Vegas as the “Entertainment Capital of the World,” the Chamber provides information for tourists relating to lodging, shopping, transportation, restaurants, recreation, and industry and

employment, and promotes the city through such ventures as its recent negotiations for a 10-year commitment with the National Finals Rodeo and an agreement with the sponsors of the Winston Cup; and

WHEREAS, The youth of Las Vegas and their education are priorities for the Chamber, as demonstrated by its support of school bond referendums, scholarship programs, and opportunities such as the Leadership Las Vegas program, which identifies high school juniors who have demonstrated leadership and, through a 10-month curriculum, prepares them for the responsibilities of leadership in the community; and

WHEREAS, Residents of Las Vegas have benefited from such community-wide efforts of the Chamber as the promotion of improvements and upgrades to major traffic artery I-15 and the Courtesy Las Vegas program that is designed to instill and inspire a higher and more consistent level of courtesy across Clark County; and

WHEREAS, It is no accident that for the last 3 years, *Inc.*, a leading publication serving entrepreneurs and small business executives, has named Las Vegas the best city in the country in which to start a small business, and in 1998, *Fortune*, a national magazine devoted to business and finance, selected the city as the second best in the nation in which to do business; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature hereby commemorates the 90th anniversary of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, recognizes the Chamber as the largest and most influential proponent of free enterprise in Las Vegas and honors it as the organization which "does the things that most people think just happen"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Legislature applaud the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce for the contributions it has made in developing Las Vegas as the "City of the Century, Community of the Future"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.