

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19—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

MARCH 8, 2001

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Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes longtime newspaper columnist, editor and publisher, Jack McCloskey. (BDR R-779)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing longtime newspaper columnist, editor and publisher, Jack McCloskey.

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature were deeply
2 saddened by the passing of longtime editor and publisher of the *Mineral*
3 *County Independent News*, John R. “Jack” McCloskey on October 13,
4 2000; and

5 WHEREAS, John R. “Jack” McCloskey, a native Nevadan, was born in
6 the small historic community of Goldfield on September 19, 1911; and

7 WHEREAS, Jack McCloskey was raised in Tonopah and, at the age of 11
8 years, launched his career in the newspaper business as a paperboy who
9 sold and delivered newspapers; and

10 WHEREAS, Before graduating from high school, Jack gained experience
11 as a printer’s devil and worked as a reporter for the *Tonopah Times*
12 *Bonanza*; and

13 WHEREAS, In the late 1920s, Jack moved to Hawthorne to join the
14 editorial staff of the *Hawthorne News*; and



1 WHEREAS, In partnership with J. W. "Scoop" Connors, Jack McCloskey
2 bought a defunct newspaper in 1933, moved the newspaper to Hawthorne,
3 renamed it the *Mineral County Independent* and published its first issue on
4 March 1, 1933; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1935, Jack McCloskey and his partner, Scoop Connors,
6 bought the *Hawthorne News* and merged it with the *Mineral County*
7 *Independent* to become the *Mineral County Independent and Hawthorne*
8 *News*, which later became known as the *Mineral County Independent*
9 *News*; and

10 WHEREAS, In November 1943, Jack patriotically took a break from the
11 newspaper business to serve in the military during World War II until
12 September 1945; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1952, Jack McCloskey had the distinct honor of serving
14 as a Senator for the State of Nevada for 1 day when he was appointed to fill
15 a vacancy; and

16 WHEREAS, Jack became the sole owner and editor of the *Mineral*
17 *County Independent News* in 1954 and ran it for the next 40 years until his
18 retirement in 1994; and

19 WHEREAS, Following his retirement, Jack continued to spin his wit and
20 provide keen insight into this state's political dramas through his "Jasper"
21 column which was published weekly in the *Mineral County Independent*
22 *News* until shortly before his death; and

23 WHEREAS, Although long active in the Nevada Press Association but
24 forever critical of its annual contests, in 1998, Jack McCloskey was one of
25 the 33 inaugural inductees into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame
26 sponsored by the Association; and

27 WHEREAS, In recognition of his many years of service to the newspaper
28 business, the residents of the State of Nevada and his community, Jack
29 received the Silver Makeup Rule Award, which originated in the 1920s and
30 is considered to be the Nevada Press Association's highest honor; and

31 WHEREAS, Jack McCloskey, who was known by many to be the dean of
32 Nevada social, political and economic history, made invaluable
33 contributions to the oral history program at the University of Nevada,
34 Reno, and served as a unique bridge between Nevada's early and late 20th
35 century history; and

36 WHEREAS, All those who were acquainted with Jack considered him to
37 be a dynamic and gifted editor, one who believed that the good of the
38 community came first and one who could take difficult-to-understand
39 issues and write them in a folksy way that made them clear not only to
40 those who would agree with his viewpoint but also to those who were
41 ignorant to the needs of this state's small counties; and

42 WHEREAS, Former Governor of Nevada Mike O'Callaghan, who is now
43 chairman of the *Las Vegas Sun*, noted that Jack "set an example for several
44 generations of Silver State residents" through "his honest and fearless
45 approach to life and all of its problems" and that Jack was regarded by
46 many as a true hero; and

47 WHEREAS, Jack McCloskey is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years,
48 Pauline, two daughters, Joanie Gazaway of Hawthorne and Jean Abel of
49 Carson City, and two grandchildren; now, therefore, be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY
2 CONCURRING, That the members of the 71st session of the Nevada
3 Legislature express their heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to the
4 family and friends of longtime newspaper columnist, editor and publisher,
5 Jack McCloskey; and be it further
6 RESOLVED, That Jack McCloskey, whose newspaper career spanned
7 almost eight decades, will long be remembered as a “newspaperman” who
8 had it all, including keen political savvy, a sense of humor and a
9 willingness to share his personal gifts with all who knew him; and be it
10 further
11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy
12 of this resolution to Jack McCloskey’s beloved wife, Pauline.

