

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19—Senators Amodei, Care, Carlton, Coffin, Jacobsen, James, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O’Connell, O’Donnell, Porter, Raggio, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

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FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 71st session of the Nevada Legislature express their heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to the family and friends of longtime newspaper columnist, editor and publisher, Jack McCloskey; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Jack McCloskey, whose newspaper career spanned almost eight decades, will long be remembered as a "newspaperman" who had it all, including keen political savvy, a sense of humor and a willingness to share his personal gifts with all who knew him; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Jack McCloskey's beloved wife, Pauline.