

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21—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 15, 2001

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN DINI, ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY, BACHE, BEERS, BERMAN, BROWER, BROWN, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CEGAVSKE, CHOWNING, CLABORN, COLLINS, DE BRAGA, 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

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes former legislator Peter Ignacio Echeverria, Esq. (BDR R-264)

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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 attorney and public servant, Peter Ignacio Echeverria, Esq.

- 1 WHEREAS, The residents of the State of Nevada mourn the loss of
- 2 an influential advocate and defender of freedom with the passing of
- 3 Peter Ignacio Echeverria on July 5, 2000; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Pete Echeverria, the son of John Echeverria, a Basque
- 5 sheepherder, and his wife, Maria, was born in Shoshone, Idaho, on June 29,
- 6 1918, and spent his early years in Hailey, Idaho, where, at 7 years of age,
- 7 being told by a sheepherder that if he caught a certain lamb he could keep
- 8 it, Pete showed the sense of challenge and accomplishment that would be
- 9 the trademark of his life by doing just that; and
- 10 WHEREAS, After his family settled in Ely, Pete attended the public
- 11 schools there, working at various jobs and ultimately becoming a butcher’s
- 12 apprentice, a trade that would help him earn his way through the University
- 13 of Nevada in Reno; and



1 WHEREAS, While attending the University of Nevada, Pete Echeverria  
2 teamed up with his good friend and roommate, Cliff Young, now Nevada  
3 Supreme Court Justice Young, to become the duo to win the Far West  
4 Debate Championship in 1943, and it was also during these years that he  
5 met Frances Arenaz, his future wife and the mother of their four children;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, After returning from service during World War II as a  
8 decorated Army infantry captain, Pete Echeverria entered and graduated  
9 from Stanford Law School and started his 34-year legal career during  
10 which he took on a number of high profile cases and was known as a great  
11 orator with a "trip-hammer" mind and an ability to charm jurors; and

12 WHEREAS, Pete Echeverria was a Special Assistant Attorney General  
13 for the Nevada Legislature in 1951 and 1953, served in the Nevada State  
14 Senate from 1959 to 1963 and had been on the State Planning Board for 10  
15 years when Governor Mike O'Callaghan appointed him Chairman of the  
16 Nevada Gaming Commission in 1973; and

17 WHEREAS, While on the Commission, his opposition to the licensing of  
18 Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal in Nevada's casino industry led to a major court  
19 battle that resulted in the affirmation of Nevada's strict gambling laws and  
20 landed Rosenthal in Nevada's infamous "List of Excluded Persons,"  
21 known popularly as the "Black Book"; and

22 WHEREAS, In an interview after leaving the Nevada Gaming  
23 Commission in 1977, Pete Echeverria said that as Chairman he had to  
24 "stand up strong and hard" against those who would corrupt the state's  
25 casinos; and

26 WHEREAS, Pete Echeverria was national President of the American  
27 Board of Trial Advocates and the only man elected twice to that position, a  
28 member of the American College of Trial Attorneys, the International  
29 Academy of Trial Attorneys, the State Bar of Nevada and the Washoe  
30 County Bar Association, and was a founder of the Nevada Trial Lawyers  
31 Association which awarded him the first Lifetime Achievement Award,  
32 acknowledging him as one of the finest trial attorneys in America; and

33 WHEREAS, After leaving trial law in 1983, Pete Echeverria operated a  
34 consulting firm specializing in gaming, real estate and legal matters, and  
35 was named Chairman of the Nevada Governor's Wild Horse Committee;  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Peter Echeverria is survived by his sons, John and Mike, and  
38 his daughters, Teresa Maloney and Cris Welmerink; now, therefore, be it

39 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY  
40 CONCURRING, That the members of the 71st session of the Nevada  
41 Legislature express their deep sense of loss and extend their heartfelt  
42 condolences to the family and friends of Peter Echeverria; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That the residents of the State of Nevada are encouraged to  
44 take Pete Echeverria as a model to "stand up strong and hard" when  
45 confronted by any force that might compromise the greatness of this state;  
46 and be it further



1       RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy  
2 of this resolution to Pete Echeverria's children, John, Teresa, Cris and  
3 Mike.

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