

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35—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 Dini, Perkins, 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, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Price, Smith, Tiffany, Von Tobel and Williams

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commending Buzz Aldrin for his lifetime achievements.

WHEREAS, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., was born in Montclair, New Jersey, on January 20, 1930, and is now known worldwide as “Buzz” Aldrin, after legally changing his name to reflect the nickname given to him by his sister, who called him “Buzzer” when she couldn’t quite pronounce “brother”; and

WHEREAS, Buzz Aldrin was influenced by the interests of his father, a pioneer in aviation who studied rocket development, and one must wonder whether his mother’s name, Marion Moon, was just a coincidence; and

WHEREAS, Buzz graduated with honors in 1951 from the United States Military Academy at West Point, ranking third in his class of 475, was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force and received his wings in 1952; and

WHEREAS, During the Korean War, Buzz Aldrin distinguished himself by destroying two enemy MIG-15s and flying F-86 Sabre jets in 66 combat missions; and

WHEREAS, Buzz pursued his career in the Air Force by serving as an Aerial Gunnery Instructor at Nellis Air Force Base, attending the Squadron Officers’ School at the Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, in Alabama and flying F-100 aircraft as a Flight Commander with the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing at Bitburg, Germany; and

WHEREAS, The desire to excel led him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a doctorate degree in astronautics in 1963; and

WHEREAS, After completing an assignment in the Gemini Target Office of the Air Force Space Systems Division in Los Angeles, California, Dr. Aldrin was transferred to the United States Air Force Field Office at the Manned Spacecraft Center, where he was introduced to the Gemini program and worked on integrating experiments of the Department of Defense with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and

WHEREAS, In October 1963, the dream of a lifetime came true when Buzz was accepted into NASA’s astronaut program, and after 3 years of training, he was launched into space on November 11, 1966, for a 4-day flight with James Lovell aboard the *Gemini XII*; and

WHEREAS, On that flight, Colonel Aldrin set a new record for extravehicular activity by spending more than 5 hours outside the spacecraft, and because of problems with the radar, "Dr. Rendezvous" cemented a second nickname by performing a successful docking rendezvous using, for the first time ever, only the backup charts aboard the spacecraft; and

WHEREAS, On July 20, 1969, Colonel Buzz Aldrin participated in the unprecedented heroic event that was witnessed by the largest worldwide television audience in history, as he stepped out of *Apollo XI* onto the surface of the moon and stamped into millions of minds the lasting image of an earthling in his space suit, facing the United States flag; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Aldrin has logged an incredible 4,500 hours of flying time, of which 289 hours and 53 minutes were in space, including extravehicular activity time of 7 hours and 52 minutes, and he has received over 50 special honors, ranging from the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal; and

WHEREAS, Buzz Aldrin is an accomplished author of four books and a coauthor of two others, and he participates in many organizations, such as the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, the International Academy of Astronautics and Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from the Air Force and NASA, Dr. Aldrin has remained at the forefront of efforts to ensure a continued leading role for America in manned space exploration, as evidenced by his development of a master plan of evolving missions for sustained space exploration, his patented design for a permanent space station, the founding of a company that designs rockets and the establishment of a nonprofit foundation that is devoted to opening the doors to space tourism for all; and

WHEREAS, Buzz Aldrin continues to quench his thirst for adventure through such journeys as a trip to the North Pole and an 11-hour underwater dive to observe the recovery attempt of part of the *Titanic*, and as the new millennium beckons, his enthusiasm for such adventure is transplanted into audiences all over the world when this well-loved, enthralling international speaker motivates, captivates and entertains with tales of his experiences; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Buzz Aldrin will honor Carson City with such a speaking engagement on April 18, 2001, at the Carson City Community Center to help raise money for the Jack C. Davis Observatory soon scheduled for construction on the campus of Western Nevada Community College in Carson City; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the Nevada Legislature do hereby commend Colonel Buzz Aldrin for his lifetime achievements that have made him unquestionably one of the world's most dynamic forces in aeronautics and space exploration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That it is with great pride we welcome him to Carson City and salute his efforts to make possible a new observatory where thousands can study and be entranced with the beauties of space and heavenly bodies that he has actually visited; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Buzz Aldrin.