

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46—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

MAY 16, 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—Urges City of Sparks to name park in memory of Jeanne L. Botts. (BDR R-1534)

~

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging the City of Sparks to name a park in the memory of Jeanne L. Botts.

- 1 WHEREAS, Jeanne L. Botts was born on June 1, 1948, in Reno, Nevada;
- 2 and
- 3 WHEREAS, Jeanne was a life-long Nevadan, having lived in various
- 4 areas throughout this state, including Virginia City, Toulon, Lovelock,
- 5 McDermitt, Carson City and Sparks; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Jeanne attended the University of Nevada, Reno, where she
- 7 majored in home economics; and
- 8 WHEREAS, After graduation from the University and employment as a
- 9 nutrition education specialist for the Nevada Cooperative Extension
- 10 Service in Reno, Jeanne moved to McDermitt, where she worked as an
- 11 assayer at the McDermitt mine; and
- 12 WHEREAS, While in McDermitt, Jeanne became interested in public
- 13 education and went on to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the



1 Humboldt County School District and President of the Nevada School  
2 Boards Association, as well as chief negotiator for teacher contracts; and

3 WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, Jeanne moved to Carson City and began  
4 her long career in service to the State of Nevada, where she held the  
5 positions of Education Coordinator for the Nevada Department of  
6 Commerce, Deputy Commissioner of Insurance and Senior Program  
7 Analyst for the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Jeanne's comprehensive knowledge of Nevada's system of  
10 public education, educational finance and the Nevada Plan was without  
11 parallel, and many legislators and staff relied upon her expertise and her  
12 willingness to explain these complex issues; and

13 WHEREAS, During the 1997 session of the Nevada Legislature, Jeanne  
14 worked countless hours in assisting with the development and preparation  
15 of the "Nevada Education Reform Act," which is a sweeping reform that  
16 provides for accountability of public schools and adopts rigorous academic  
17 standards to ensure that the school children in the City of Sparks and all of  
18 Nevada's school children can perform at a high level of academic  
19 achievement in the global economy of the 21st century; and

20 WHEREAS, The high academic standards adopted by the Nevada  
21 Education Reform Act serve as a strong foundation today for the classroom  
22 instruction provided to school children in the City of Sparks and all of  
23 Nevada's school children; and

24 WHEREAS, As the first Chief of the Legislative Bureau of Educational  
25 Accountability and Program Evaluation in the Fiscal Analysis Division of  
26 the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Jeanne assisted public schools, including  
27 schools in the City of Sparks, in securing the remediation funding  
28 necessary to ensure that students were prepared to meet the rigorous  
29 academic standards, resulting in increased academic achievement of those  
30 students; and

31 WHEREAS, Jeanne's commitment to public education and her steadfast  
32 support of professional development for teachers contributed to the  
33 development of four regional training programs for the professional  
34 development of teachers, one of which is located in Washoe County and  
35 provides exemplary training and assistance to teachers employed at public  
36 schools in the City of Sparks; and

37 WHEREAS, After 10 years of service to the Legislative Counsel Bureau,  
38 Jeanne became the Senior Director of Business and Financial Services for  
39 the Washoe County School District, where she immediately took charge  
40 and supervised a district-wide, in-depth review of the financial process of  
41 the school district, which resulted in increased per-pupil funding for the  
42 students enrolled in public schools in the Cities of Sparks and Reno; and

43 WHEREAS, In October 2000, Jeanne was awarded an Honorary Degree  
44 of Doctor of Humane Letters by the University of Nevada, Reno, in  
45 recognition of her service to Nevada's system of public education and to  
46 Nevada's school children; and

47 WHEREAS, In the fall of 1999, Jeanne was diagnosed with amyotrophic  
48 lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease,"



1 and she endured that disease with the same integrity, perseverance, courage  
2 and forthrightness that marked her professional career; and

3 WHEREAS, During her final year of life, Jeanne was generally confined  
4 to her home because she was physically unable to move, but she was able  
5 to view the outside world because her home in Sparks was located by a  
6 proposed 2-acre park at Wingfield Springs; and

7 WHEREAS, Jeanne spent many hours in her home looking through a  
8 window that faced the proposed park, and she was grateful for her  
9 “window to the world” because it allowed her to remain connected to life  
10 by watching people interact and enjoying the natural beauty of the  
11 landscape; and

12 WHEREAS, Although Jeanne lost her battle with ALS on March 9, 2001,  
13 her legacy is reflected in the vastly improved system of public education in  
14 this state, the benefits of which the school children in the City of Sparks  
15 and the rest of Nevada will continue to reap for many years to come; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY  
18 CONCURRING, That the members of the 71st session of the Nevada  
19 Legislature hereby urge the City of Sparks to recognize the life-long  
20 accomplishments and contributions of Jeanne L. Botts by naming the  
21 proposed park at Wingfield Springs the “J. L. Botts Memorial Park” in her  
22 memory; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy  
24 of this resolution to Stan Sherer, Director of the Parks and Recreation  
25 Department of the City of Sparks, and James P. Dana Jr., Jeanne’s long-  
26 time companion and friend.

