

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14—Senators Care, Amodei, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, Nolan, O’Connell, Raggio, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Tiffany, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Goldwater, Anderson, Andonov, Angle, Arberry, Atkinson, Beers, Brown, Buckley, Carpenter, Chowning, Christensen, Claborn, Collins, Conklin, Geddes, Gibbons, Giunchigliani, Goicoechea, Grady, Griffin, Gustavson, Hardy, Hettrick, Horne, Knecht, Koivisto, Leslie, Mabey, Manendo, Marvel, McClain, McCleary, Mortenson, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Perkins, Pierce, Sherer, Weber and Williams

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing prominent physician and philanthropist Elias Ghanem.

WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada State Legislature join the people of the State of Nevada to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of Elias Ghanem who passed away on August 27, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Elias Ghanem, known for his skill and caring as a physician and for his spirit of generosity, was born on March 12, 1939, in Haifa, Israel, and was a 30-year resident of Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, Elias Ghanem arrived in the United States in 1963 looking for the American Dream, with little more than \$90 to his name and a scholarship to a North Carolina college, and at times lived out of his car while subsequently working his way through Duke University School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, After interning at the University of Southern California, Elias Ghanem journeyed to Las Vegas in 1971 to become an emergency room physician at Sunrise Hospital, beginning what was to be a long and illustrious career in the medical field; and

WHEREAS, A few years later, Dr. Ghanem began his own family practice, and beginning in 1977, he opened the first of several 24-hour clinics, Las Vegas Medical Centers, to serve the people of Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, After serving as the hotel doctor for the Las Vegas Hilton, Dr. Ghanem became known as the “physician to the stars” because he became the personal physician to such celebrities as Elvis Presley, Liberace, Michael Jackson, Bill Cosby, Ann-Margret, Wayne Newton and Virginia Kelley, the mother of former President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ghanem cared for patients from every walk of life, including casino workers, culinary workers and teachers, and

was known for treating everyone with the same care and dignity, whether the patient be poor and homeless or a celebrity; and

WHEREAS, During the 6-year strike at the Frontier Hotel, one of the longest labor disputes in the history of this country, Dr. Ghanem provided free medical care and delivered more than 100 babies for the striking workers; and

WHEREAS, Through the Elias F. Ghanem Medical Scholarship Fund, there are many more doctors and nurses in the medical field to carry on his legacy of dedicated medical care; and

WHEREAS, Elias Ghanem, known for his generous nature and charm, lived life to the fullest, was fluent in French, Arabic, English and Hebrew, and immersed himself in the worlds of medicine, politics, philanthropy, entertainment and sports, especially boxing; and

WHEREAS, During his 14-year tenure on the Nevada Athletic Commission, Elias Ghanem served intermittently as Chairman, with Nevada hosting an unprecedented number of major championship fights which were televised throughout the world and which broke records for gross paid gates, increasing the visibility and enhancing the reputation of the State of Nevada as a force in the world of professional boxing; and

WHEREAS, As the Commissioner of the Nevada Athletic Commission, Elias Ghanem was largely attributed with raising the stature of boxing in Nevada by implementing health and safety procedures which have been adopted throughout the boxing world, such as mandating that all boxing rings in Nevada have four ropes, instead of three, to prevent fighters from sustaining serious injury from falling through the ropes, and mandating the testing of boxers for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, Among his many awards, Elias Ghanem was the recipient of the University of Nevada Distinguished Nevadan Award, the Victor Award for his contribution to sports, and was named "Man of the Year" for the National Jewish Hospital and American Jewish Committee; and

WHEREAS, Elias Ghanem is survived by his wife, Jody, daughter, Crystal Ann, sons, Elias II and Farid, brother, Nasser, and six nieces, all of Las Vegas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Elias Ghanem; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the residents of the State of Nevada will miss the compassion, generosity and enthusiasm of Elias Ghanem; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Elias Ghanem's loving wife, Jody.