

Senate Resolution No. 7—Senators Raggio, Amodei, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, Nolan, O’Connell, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Tiffany, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE RESOLUTION—Commending Sonny King for his lifetime contribution as an entertainer.

WHEREAS, Although the birth name “Louis Antonio Donato Schiavone” may not be readily recognizable to many, the stage name “Sonny King” brings a smile to the faces of millions of people who have enjoyed a performance by this world-class entertainer; and

WHEREAS, Since he was 15 years old, Sonny King has been delighting audiences with songs, jokes and comedy routines on stage in a style that is described as sincere, honest and having a “comedic flair” with “the easy approach of Sinatra”; and

WHEREAS, Sonny King began his career as a singer and emcee in Hudson, New Jersey, where he did 42 shows a week for \$60; and

WHEREAS, He built his act at the famed Copacabana and Havana Madrid in New York City and, after being recognized as having the enviable ability to relate and adapt to all audiences, was invited to move to Las Vegas and become a part of the show at the Sahara; and

WHEREAS, Three years later, at the age of 23, Sonny joined Jimmy Durante at the Desert Inn in a partnership that lasted an incredible 28 years, with routines that never became stale because Sonny and Jimmy genuinely enjoyed working with each other and because the audience felt their love of showmanship and never grew tired of watching the two of them have a good time on stage; and

WHEREAS, After being introduced to Frank Sinatra, Sonny became a close friend of the “Rat Pack,” was affectionately nicknamed the “Lounge Giant” by that group, who defined “cool” during the early 1960s, and demonstrated his extensive talent by writing many of the one-liners and jokes that Sinatra used on Dean Martin when the two of them performed their act; and

WHEREAS, During the course of Sonny’s career, he has headlined at the Sahara, Desert Inn, Sands, Dunes, Frontier and Stardust in the “Entertainment Capital of the World,” and he has probably performed with more stars than anyone in the entertainment business, including Red Skelton, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, Danny Thomas, Burt Bacharach, Joey Bishop, Shecky Greene and many others; and

WHEREAS, This artist’s domain is certainly not limited to one city, as he has performed at such prestigious establishments as the

Chez Paree and Palmer House in Chicago, Madison Square Garden in New York and the Diplomat in Miami; and

WHEREAS, Also internationally acclaimed, Sonny King has starred at the Palladium Theater in London and the La Scala Opera House in Milan, has headlined in Scotland, Ireland and Greece, and has even given a command performance at Windsor Castle; and

WHEREAS, Not limited to live performances, Sonny King has entertained millions through the media of television and motion pictures, with 21 appearances on the Merv Griffin Show as well as special guest appearances on the shows of Mike Douglas, Johnny Carson and Ed Sullivan and roles in four movies, including the original *Ocean's 11* and *Robin and the Seven Hoods*; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the continuous adoration and respect from his audiences, Sonny has received awards such as induction into the Casino Legends Hall of Fame at the Tropicana and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Variety Club International; and

WHEREAS, Although one might think that after 6 decades filled with such expense of energy and accomplishments Sonny King would be ready to retire and "take it easy," he still loves performing and living his belief that "he was put on this earth to serve and entertain the people and if he can get the man or woman in the audience to forget their troubles for as long as he is on stage, then he is serving his purpose on this earth"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That the members of the Senate of the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby commend Sonny King for his lifetime contribution as an entertainer in this state and throughout the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Nevada hereby honors Sonny King as a legend in his own time and appreciates that he has unselfishly shared his talent to make the world a more enjoyable place; and be it further

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