

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Senators Washington, Mathews, Raggio, Townsend, Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, McGinness, Nolan, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Titus and Wiener

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Anderson, Marvel, Smith, Allen, Angle, Arberry Jr., Atkinson, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Gerhardt, Giunchigliani, Goicoechea, Grady, Hardy, Hettrick, Hogan, Holcomb, Horne, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Mabey, Manendo, McClain, McCleary, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Perkins, Pierce, Seale, Sherer, Sibley and Weber

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing Tony Armstrong, beloved Mayor of the City of Sparks.

WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature wish to express their condolences and deep sorrow on the passing of Tony Armstrong, the beloved Mayor of the City of Sparks, on January 29, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Tony Armstrong was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 3, 1945, and moved to Sparks when he was 4 years of age, with his mother and younger brothers, attending local schools including graduating from Sparks High School; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in humble circumstances, Tony was a self-professed troublemaker until, at the age of 14 years, he got caught skipping school and had to spend several hours in a jail cell alone, an experience which he said made him a different person and changed the path of his life, otherwise the people of Sparks may never have experienced the pleasure of having Tony Armstrong as their Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Tony Armstrong, a licensed general contractor, had a strong work ethic, starting his own successful construction inspection business; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Tony Armstrong was elected as a Councilman for the City of Sparks, now Nevada's fifth largest city with a population of almost 80,000, and was reelected twice; and

WHEREAS, Tony was elected Mayor of the City of Sparks in 1999 and was serving his second term at his passing, successfully steering the Rail City to healthy growth with thriving businesses and expanding neighborhoods, while still keeping that small hometown feeling; and

WHEREAS, As a public official, Tony Armstrong is largely credited with such successful developments as Victorian Square and the Sparks Marina, while taking time to attend school functions, grand openings, dedications, parades and other special events; and

WHEREAS, Under the watchful eye of Tony Armstrong, Sparks became known for its special events that include the entire family, such as the Star Spangled Sparks fireworks extravaganza, the Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market, the Sparks Hometowne Christmas gala, the Big Easy, Hot August Nights and the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off; and

WHEREAS, Geno Martini, former Councilman who was recently named Mayor of the City of Sparks and a friend of Tony Armstrong's since the third grade, said "What made him stand out as a politician was a passion for his job of Mayor, his honesty and his connection with the people"; and

WHEREAS, Preferring to be called "Tony," rather than "Mr. Mayor," he was known for his willingness to always give a hand to anyone in need and for his friendliness, making everyone who met him feel they had a personal relationship with him; and

WHEREAS, Because Tony Armstrong disliked suits and ties, people were asked to wear casual attire to the service to celebrate his life, with about 2,000 people wearing such clothing as blue jeans, khaki pants, golf shirts and cowboy boots to show their respect for "the people's Mayor," and even Governor Kenny Guinn and Pastor Randy Siever of Sparks Christian Fellowship Church got in the spirit by wearing Hawaiian shirts; and

WHEREAS, His daughter Misti remembers Tony as a perfect father who always made time for his family, no matter how busy his schedule; and

WHEREAS, Upon learning that her grandfather had passed away, 7-year-old Madison consoled her parents by writing "Dear Mom and Dad, I'm sorry that Papa died. Hopefully, God has a Mayor up in the sky."; and

WHEREAS, Tony Armstrong is survived by Debby, his loving wife of 22 years, sons Richard and Keith Armstrong, daughter Misti Franco, and grandchildren Kierra, Madison, Kole and James; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That Tony Armstrong will be remembered for attaining many great successes on behalf of the people and the city that he loved so much, while maintaining the friendliness and caring attributes that made the residents of Sparks return that affection; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the people of the City of Sparks will surely feel the presence of Tony Armstrong as they celebrate the Sparks

Centennial because he will be watching over the city that he treasured and of which he was so proud; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Debby Armstrong, cherished wife of Tony.

