
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43—SENATORS RAGGIO, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, HECK, HORSFORD, LEE, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

MAY 23, 2005

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN ANDERSON, 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, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MCCLEARY, MORTENSON, MUNFORD, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PARNELL, PERKINS, PIERCE, SEALE, SHERER, SIBLEY, SMITH AND WEBER

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes Judge John W. Barrett.
(BDR R-1245)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing former District Court Judge John W. Barrett.

- 1 WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature were
- 2 saddened to learn of the passing of native Nevadan and former
- 3 District Court Judge John W. Barrett on June 19, 2004; and
- 4 WHEREAS, John W. Barrett was born in Reno, Nevada, on
- 5 June 9, 1917, to Esther Catherine Johns Barrett and William Patrick
- 6 Barrett, both of pioneer families from Reno and the Carson Valley;
- 7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, Although the Barrett family included three
- 9 generations of stonemasons, including John's grandfather who
- 10 crafted the Nevada Memorial Stone on the Washington National
- 11 Monument, William Barrett did not encourage John to join the



1 family business, instead he encouraged him to embark on a different
2 career path; and

3 WHEREAS, After graduating from the University of Nevada,
4 Reno, in 1939, John enlisted in the United States Army Reserve and
5 witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, while he
6 was stationed at Schofield Barracks; and

7 WHEREAS, John continued bravely serving his country in the
8 United States Army until the end of World War II, receiving a Silver
9 Star, a Bronze Star and a Combat Infantry Badge before retiring
10 from military service as a Lieutenant Colonel; and

11 WHEREAS, After graduating from the University of California,
12 Hastings College of the Law in 1949, John returned to Nevada to
13 practice law in Reno and Hawthorne before serving as a Deputy
14 Attorney General for the State of Nevada; and

15 WHEREAS, Upon the death of Judge Mastretti in 1961, Governor
16 Grant Sawyer appointed John Barrett to the Washoe County District
17 Court, Department Number 2, where Judge Barrett continued to
18 preside, unchallenged at any election since 1962, until his retirement
19 from the bench in 1985; and

20 WHEREAS, In presiding over numerous trials during his 24 years
21 on the bench, including the Priscilla Ford trial, Judge John W.
22 Barrett is best remembered for his strong sense of fairness and
23 adherence to the law, his instrumental role in working with Judge
24 Tom Craven to bring the National Judicial College to Reno and for
25 being a founding member of the Nevada Judicial Historical Society;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Although Judge Barrett was soft spoken, his family
28 and friends knew him as an avid outdoorsman with a great sense of
29 humor, a gift for storytelling and a deep love for his wife, whom
30 John affectionately referred to as "M," and his children,
31 grandchildren and great-granddaughter and the rest of his family;
32 now, therefore, be it

33 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
34 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 73rd Session of
35 the Nevada Legislature offer their sincere condolences to the family
36 and friends of Judge John W. Barrett; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the legacy of Judge John W. Barrett's
38 exemplary judicial career and tireless effort to preserve the history
39 of the courts of Nevada will continue to inspire judges for
40 generations to come; and be it further

41 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
42 transmit a copy of this resolution to John Barrett's beloved family.

