

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5—SENATORS COFFIN, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, HARDY, HECK, HORSFORD, LEE, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, RAGGIO, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

FEBRUARY 22, 2005

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN GIUNCHIGLIANI, PIERCE, ALLEN, ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY JR., ATKINSON, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CHRISTENSEN, CLABORN, CONKLIN, DENIS, GANSERT, GERHARDT, GOICOECHEA, GRADY, HARDY, HETTRICK, HOGAN, HOLCOMB, HORNE, KIRKPATRICK, KOIVISTO, LESLIE, MABEY, MANENDO, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MCCLEARY, MORTENSON, MUNFORD, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PARNELL, PERKINS, SEALE, SHERER, SIBLEY, SMITH AND WEBER

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Commemorates 100th anniversary of founding of Las Vegas and designates 2005 as “Las Vegas Centennial Celebration.” (BDR R-228)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commemorating the 100th anniversary of Las Vegas and designating the year 2005 as the “Las Vegas Centennial Celebration.”

- 1 WHEREAS, Hidden for centuries from all but Native Americans,
- 2 the oasis that would become known as Las Vegas Valley was
- 3 protected from discovery by the surrounding harsh and unforgiving
- 4 Mojave Desert until 1829 when it was sighted by Rafael Rivera, a
- 5 scout for the New Mexico trader, Antonio Armijo; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The abundance of artesian spring water discovered
- 7 in the Valley shortened the trade route along the Old Spanish Trail
- 8 from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Los Angeles, California, and the



1 area became known as "Las Vegas," Spanish for "The Meadows";
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In 1844, famed explorer Captain John C. Fremont
4 camped near the springs, described the route and noted the name
5 "Las Vegas" in his expedition journal, which would later be
6 published and distributed and help make the Valley known to the
7 world; and

8 WHEREAS, The first non-Native American settlement in the
9 Valley was a fortified mission built in 1855 by Mormon colonists
10 who were quickly overwhelmed by the rigors of desert life and
11 occasional Indian raids and who abandoned the site 2 years later;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, After filing unsuccessful mining claims near present-
14 day Boulder City, Octavius Decatur Gass, considered a founding
15 father of Las Vegas, established a working ranch in 1865 near the
16 remains of the Mormon fort on what is now downtown Las Vegas;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Gass ranch was acquired in 1881 by Archibald
19 Stewart and was sold 21 years later by his wife Helen to Montana
20 Senator William A. Clark, who subsequently used the land to
21 complete the railroad line between Los Angeles, California, and Salt
22 Lake City, Utah; and

23 WHEREAS, By 1905, the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake
24 Railroad was completed and a railroad town was laid out on 110
25 acres bounded by Stewart Avenue, Garces Avenue, Main Street, and
26 5th Street, which is now Las Vegas Boulevard; and

27 WHEREAS, On May 15, 1905, the Railroad auctioned lots in the
28 townsite called "Las Vegas," establishing the humble beginning of a
29 city that would become a thriving business mecca and the
30 entertainment capital of the world; and

31 WHEREAS, The Las Vegas Centennial Celebration Committee is
32 dedicated to educating the public and commemorating and
33 celebrating the history and culture of Las Vegas; and

34 WHEREAS, The Centennial Celebration is a year-long event
35 meant to include both residents and tourists by creating a wide range
36 of activities, projects and events; now, therefore, be it

37 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
38 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 73rd Session of
39 the Nevada Legislature do hereby commemorate the 100th
40 anniversary of the founding of Las Vegas and designate the year
41 2005 as the "Las Vegas Centennial Celebration"; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration
43 Committee is hereby commended for its efforts to ensure that the
44 residents of Nevada are aware of the historic events that established
45 and developed Las Vegas, for preserving the history of Las Vegas



1 through Centennial legacy projects that will honor the past and for
2 establishing endowments for historic preservation projects in the
3 future; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration
5 Committee is hereby urged to continue the year-long celebration of
6 Las Vegas as one of the great American cities, as documented by
7 Insignia Films in their award-winning *American Experience* series;
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
10 transmit a copy of this resolution to Mayor Oscar B. Goodman,
11 Chairman of the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration Committee.



