

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

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, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Perkins, Seale, Sherer, Sibley, Smith and Weber

FILE NUMBER.....

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

WHEREAS, Hidden for centuries from all but Native Americans, the oasis that would become known as Las Vegas Valley was protected from discovery by the surrounding harsh and unforgiving Mojave Desert until 1829 when it was sighted by Rafael Rivera, a scout for the New Mexico trader, Antonio Armijo; and

WHEREAS, The abundance of artesian spring water discovered in the Valley shortened the trade route along the Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Los Angeles, California, and the area became known as “Las Vegas,” Spanish for “The Meadows”; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Gass ranch was acquired in 1881 by Archibald Stewart and was sold 21 years later by his wife Helen to Montana

Senator William A. Clark, who subsequently used the land to complete the railroad line between Los Angeles, California, and Salt Lake City, Utah; and

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration Committee is hereby commended for its efforts to ensure that the residents of Nevada are aware of the historic events that established and developed Las Vegas, for preserving the history of Las Vegas through Centennial legacy projects that will honor the past and for establishing endowments for historic preservation projects in the future; and be it further

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

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