

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9—SENATORS RAGGIO, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, HECK, HORSFORD, LEE, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

MARCH 9, 2005

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Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Congratulates Dr. Donald K. Grayson for being selected as recipient of Nevada Medal given by Desert Research Institute. (BDR R-1318)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Congratulating Dr. Donald K. Grayson for being selected as the recipient of the Nevada Medal given by the Desert Research Institute.

- 1 WHEREAS, Contributions to the sciences of archaeology,
- 2 paleoecology and biogeography, and studies of the natural
- 3 prehistory of the Great Basin, are of great importance to the
- 4 residents of the State of Nevada; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The recipient of the 2005 Nevada Medal is Dr.
- 6 Donald K. Grayson, a well-respected scientist who is known for his
- 7 continued investigation of how the mammalian fossil record from
- 8 archaeological and late Quaternary paleontological sites can
- 9 contribute to effective scientific study of the long-term effects of



1 climate change on species distributions and ecological associations,
2 and how these historical insights contribute to effective management
3 of biodiversity preserves; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Grayson is best known for his innovative
5 research showing that climate change, and not “overkill by early
6 human hunters,” led to the demise of large mammals like the woolly
7 mammoth in North America some 10,000 years ago; and

8 WHEREAS, His extremely popular book, *The Desert's Past: A*
9 *Natural Prehistory of the Great Basin*, published by the
10 Smithsonian Institution Press, explains how the modern Great Basin
11 has come to be; and

12 WHEREAS, Other contributions include Dr. Grayson's masterful
13 study of the Donner Party who were stranded in the Sierra Nevada
14 during the winter of 1846 on an ill-fated journey to California,
15 which confirmed that biological predictors of mortality could
16 accurately determine who would live and who would die, shedding
17 new light on the importance of family ties in human societies; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Grayson's research is driven more by questions
19 than by time periods or geography, and the bulk of his work has
20 involved the latest Pleistocene and Holocene of the Great Basin and
21 Pleistocene southwestern France, all areas where he plans to
22 continue working in the future; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Grayson joined the Department of Anthropology
24 at the University of Washington 30 years ago, where he remains a
25 Professor of Anthropology, Adjunct Professor at the Quaternary
26 Research Center and Adjunct Curator of Environmental
27 Archaeology at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Grayson's most important contribution not
30 mentioned above is the large number of successful graduate students
31 he has supported over the years; and

32 WHEREAS, The greater and longer-lasting measure of Dr.
33 Grayson's success is measured in the productivity of his students;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, The Nevada Medal is an honor conferred by the
36 Desert Research Institute of the University and Community College
37 System of Nevada and sponsored by SBC Communications Inc. in
38 recognition of outstanding achievement in science and engineering;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Grayson's continued contributions toward
41 understanding the interrelationships between people and the biotic
42 landscapes with which they interact have been recognized and, as
43 such, he is being honored this year as the recipient of the Nevada
44 Medal; now, therefore, be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
2 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 73rd Session of
3 the Nevada Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Donald K. Grayson
4 for being named the recipient of the 2005 Nevada Medal given by
5 the Desert Research Institute; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That SBC Communications Inc. is hereby
7 commended for its continued sponsorship of the Nevada Medal,
8 which offers well-deserved recognition to persons who have
9 demonstrated outstanding scientific, engineering and technical
10 achievements; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the residents of the State of Nevada will long
12 be grateful to Dr. Grayson for his contributions to the sciences of
13 archaeology, paleoecology and biogeography, and in particular
14 consideration of his long-term studies of the natural prehistory of
15 the Great Basin; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
17 transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. Donald K. Grayson, the
18 Desert Research Institute of the University and Community College
19 System of Nevada and SBC Communications Inc.



