

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

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Perkins, Allen, Anderson, 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, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Pierce, Seale, Sherer, Sibley, Smith and Weber

FILE NUMBER.....

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

WHEREAS, Contributions to the sciences of archaeology, paleoecology and biogeography, and studies of the natural prehistory of the Great Basin, are of great importance to the residents of the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of the 2005 Nevada Medal is Dr. Donald K. Grayson, a well-respected scientist who is known for his continued investigation of how the mammalian fossil record from archaeological and late Quaternary paleontological sites can contribute to effective scientific study of the long-term effects of climate change on species distributions and ecological associations, and how these historical insights contribute to effective management of biodiversity preserves; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Grayson's continued contributions toward understanding the interrelationships between people and the biotic landscapes with which they interact have been recognized and, as such, he is being honored this year as the recipient of the Nevada Medal; 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 hereby congratulate Dr. Donald K. Grayson for being named the recipient of the 2005 Nevada Medal given by the Desert Research Institute; and be it further

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

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

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

