

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4—SENATORS WASHINGTON, MATHEWS, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, HECK, HORSFORD, LEE, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, RAGGIO, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WIENER AND WOODHOUSE

MARCH 27, 2007

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes Reverend Willie J. Wynn, a dedicated minister and prominent Reno resident. (BDR R-2)

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

SENATE RESOLUTION—Memorializing Reverend Willie J. Wynn, a dedicated minister and prominent Reno resident.

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 22 years ago on July 3, 1985, Nevada
2 mourned the untimely death of Reverend Willie J. Wynn, a loving
3 husband and father of nine children, a dedicated minister and
4 advocate for ending poverty in this State, and the first African
5 American in the history of the State of Nevada to be appointed to a
6 position on the Governor’s cabinet; and

7 WHEREAS, Willie was called to the ministry at an early age in
8 life and received his license as an Ordained Elder in the Church of
9 God in Christ in 1955, and was the recipient of an honorary
10 Doctorate of Divinity in 1967; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Wynn married the love of his life,
12 Rochelle Crisp, on June 11, 1957, in Las Vegas, and they became
13 the proud parents of eight daughters and one son; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1968, Governor Laxalt made history when he
15 appointed Reverend Wynn, the man who was able to “get things
16 done,” to the position of Director of the Office of Economic
17 Opportunity, an appointment which was considered a landmark for
18 the State of Nevada because Wynn was the first African American
19 in this State to serve on the Governor’s cabinet; and

20 WHEREAS, Wynn’s career with the State of Nevada continued
21 with his appointments as Equal Opportunity Coordinator for the



1 Nevada Highway Department in 1973 and as Nevada Equal Rights
2 Commissioner by Governor Richard H. Bryan; and

3 WHEREAS, As Reverend Willie J. Wynn slipped away on July 3,
4 1985, his family and friends and the residents of the State of Nevada
5 remembered a man whose success in life could be attributed to the
6 fact that he surmounted stumbling blocks and made them into
7 stepping stones and made every trial into a challenge; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That the
10 members of the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature are
11 reminded of the accomplishments and achievements of a man who
12 made history in the State of Nevada and opened the door for all
13 African Americans in this State; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That Reverend Wynn continues to be remembered
15 as a man who touched many persons in all walks of life, a man who
16 knew no color barriers and a man who was seldom without a smile
17 or kind word; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
19 transmit a copy of this resolution to Rochelle, Willie's wife of 28
20 years, his son, William John, and his daughters, Patricia, Robbye,
21 Leisa, Karen, Wilhelmenia, Juanita and Sharon.

