

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

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Wynn's career with the State of Nevada continued with his appointments as Equal Opportunity Coordinator for the Nevada Highway Department in 1973 and as Nevada Equal Rights Commissioner by Governor Richard H. Bryan; and

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

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



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

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

