

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 24—Assemblymen Denis, Kihuen; Aizley, Anderson, Arberry, Atkinson, Bobzien, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Cobb, Conklin, Dondero Loop, Gansert, Goedhart, Goicoechea, Grady, Gustavson, Hambrick, Hardy, Hogan, Horne, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Manendo, Mastroluca, McArthur, McClain, Mortenson, Munford, Oceguela, Ohrenschall, Parnell, Pierce, Segerblom, Settelmeyer, Smith, Spiegel, Stewart and Woodbury

Joint Sponsors: Senators Amodei, Breeden, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Copenig, Hardy, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Parks, Raggio, Rhoads, Schneider, Townsend, Washington, Wiener and Woodhouse

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Encouraging the celebration of America’s immigrant roots.

WHEREAS, Walt Whitman wrote of America, “Here is not merely a nation but a teeming nation of nations,” and if we could be transported back to any street in America in the 19th century, we would be surrounded by the sounds of the many languages being spoken by the masses of people coming to this country looking for a better life; and

WHEREAS, Many immigrants came to America to escape famine, war, religious oppression and political turmoil in their native lands, as well as to seek economic opportunity and the freedoms that the world equates with our country; and

WHEREAS, In 1870, Nevada had more foreign-born residents per capita than any other state, mainly Irish, Chinese, English, Canadians, Germans and Italians, with many hoping to make their fortunes in the mining boom and return home with their riches; and

WHEREAS, Whether they were working as farmers, ranchers, cowboys, sheepherders, miners, railroad workers or any number of other jobs, the immigrants to Nevada seemed to abide by the German proverb “If I rest, I rust,” setting a work ethic that prevails today; and

WHEREAS, No one embodied the successful immigrant more than Irishman John Mackay who started out as a miner and, through hard work and sound investments, became one of the world’s richest and most respected men, memorialized by a statue of him as a miner holding a pick axe with his sleeves rolled up, which stands in front



of the Mackay School of Mines building on the University of Nevada, Reno, campus; and

WHEREAS, While women immigrated in fewer numbers, those that braved the journey made their own contributions by bringing the arts, education, health care and religion, while others ventured into business, mining and ranching and became entrepreneurs in the land of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Some notable immigrants are German-born Albert Einstein who won the Nobel Prize in Physics and spent his life working for peace, Spanish-born Severo Ochoa who is best known for being the first to synthesize RNA outside the cell for which he won the 1959 Nobel Prize in Medicine, Czechoslovakian-born Madeleine Albright who became the first female Secretary of State, Russian-born Irving Berlin who wrote some of America's most beloved songs, Taiwanese-born Dr. David Ho who is a leading researcher in the field of AIDS, Mexican-born Mario Molina who was the most prominent precursor to discovering the Antarctic ozone hole and a Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry for his role in clarifying the threat of chlorofluorocarbon gases to the Earth's ozone layer, and Italian-born Saint Frances X. Cabrini, the first American saint, who founded 67 schools, hospitals and orphanages, one for each year of her life, as well as world-famous athletes, artists, politicians and businessmen; and

WHEREAS, More than 65,000 immigrants, 11,000 of them women, are presently serving on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, and historically immigrants have served in great numbers to show their dedication to and love for their adopted country; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics are now the largest minority in the United States, two-thirds of whom are immigrants or the children of immigrants, and are recognized as having a positive impact on the social, cultural and economic development of America; and

WHEREAS, Cultural diversity brings richness to our lives and is one of America's strengths, whether it is the cuisine, the colorful fashions, the arts or the many celebrations such as St. Patrick's Day, Chinese New Year, Cinco de Mayo, Oktoberfest or Halloween, all of which give Nevada an international, cosmopolitan feel that celebrates the coming together of people with different languages and backgrounds; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 75th Nevada Legislature recognize the great contributions that immigrants have



made to the vitality and growth of Nevada and America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislature urges the residents of Nevada to celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of its people and their traditions which have added to our wealth of great music, art, education, science and intellect.

20 ~~~~~ 09

