

Assembly Resolution No. 5—Assemblymen Buckley,
Oceguera and Gansert

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION—Adding William D. Swackhamer to
the Assembly Wall of Distinction.

WHEREAS, The Assembly of the Legislature of the State of Nevada has established an Assembly Wall of Distinction for those past members selected by leadership who served with great distinction and who made exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature are saddened by the loss of one of their own, former Assemblyman and Secretary of State William D. Swackhamer; and

WHEREAS, Born in Winnemucca, Nevada, and raised in Battle Mountain, Bill “Swack” Swackhamer joined the U.S. Army Corps in 1943 and fought in Italy during World War II, returning in 1946 to run his family’s general store in Battle Mountain; and

WHEREAS, Swack was a shy, modest and unassuming man who enjoyed baseball and books and working in his general store in Battle Mountain; and

WHEREAS, Swack was handpicked by party officials in Lander County to run for the State Assembly and won his first term in 1946, representing the residents of Eureka, Lander and Pershing Counties as Assemblyman from 1946 to 1972, as Speaker of the Assembly for two regular sessions in 1957 and 1965 and for three special sessions in 1958, 1965 and 1966, and as Majority Floor Leader in the 1967 Regular Session and 1968 Special Session of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Swack’s tenure in the Assembly included 14 regular and seven special legislative sessions, and as Assemblyman, he supported rural interests, including building hospitals, schools and other facilities in rural Nevada, securing funds for the improvement of county roads throughout the State and fighting government waste throughout his political career; and

WHEREAS, Swack made protecting the health and beauty of Lake Tahoe a focus of his career in public service, along with spearheading the effort to institute a gaming tax to create the Capital Construction Fund for Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Former Speaker Swackhamer was appointed Nevada’s Secretary of State in 1973 and won three successive elections, leaving office in 1987 after overseeing the



computerization of that office's operations, a remarkable 40 years after his first election to the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Swack had a wonderfully dry sense of humor and was known to advise other politicians who might be tempted to take themselves too seriously to first look across the aisle and remember, that person too was elected to public office; and

WHEREAS, Bill passed away while staying with his daughter Becky in Idaho on July 10, 2008, at the age of 93 and was buried alongside his beloved wife Joyce in his chosen resting place of Battle Mountain; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That Assemblyman and Secretary of State William D. Swackhamer, who gave 40 years of his life to steadfastly serving all Nevadans with intelligence, candor and determination, is hereby added to the Assembly Wall of Distinction.

