

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14—SENATORS WOODHOUSE; AMODEI, BREEDEN, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, COPENING, HARDY, HORSFORD, LEE, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, PARKS, RAGGIO, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

MARCH 5, 2009

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN KIHUEN; AIZLEY, ANDERSON, ARBERRY, ATKINSON, BOBZIEN, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CHRISTENSEN, CLABORN, COBB, CONKLIN, DENIS, DONDERO LOOP, GANSERT, GOEDHART, GOICOECHEA, GRADY, GUSTAVSON, HAMBRICK, HARDY, HOGAN, HORNE, KIRKPATRICK, KOIVISTO, LESLIE, MANENDO, MASTROLUCA, MCARTHUR, MCCLAIN, MORTENSON, MUNFORD, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARNELL, PIERCE, SEGERBLOM, SETTELMAYER, SMITH, SPIEGEL, STEWART AND WOODBURY

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Honors Thalia Dondero for her outstanding service to the Nevada System of Higher Education and community organizations. (BDR R-935)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Honoring Thalia Dondero for her outstanding service to the Nevada System of Higher Education and community organizations.

1 WHEREAS, In 1942, Thalia Sperry moved to Las Vegas where
2 she met and married Harvey Dondero, a career teacher and
3 administrator, and the couple began a long partnership promoting
4 education in Nevada, a passion for both of them; and

5 WHEREAS, Having five children, Judy, Michael, Nick, Rob and
6 Marilyn, and not being one to do anything halfway, Thalia dove into



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1 the job of parenting by becoming active in all levels of the Girl
2 Scouts and Boy Scouts and the Parent Teacher Association, and was
3 twice selected "Homemaker of the Year" from Nevada for *McCall's*
4 *Magazine*, while the Dondero family was nominated "Family of the
5 Year" and Thalia has continued this rich tradition of enjoying
6 spending time with her family including the 15 grandchildren and 6
7 great-grandchildren of whom she is very proud; and

8 WHEREAS, Thalia's interests are many, including human rights,
9 water issues, tourism, law enforcement, renewable energy and the
10 environment, and she became known as the "Tree Lady" because of
11 her work on the Nevada State Park Commission to expand state-
12 owned recreational areas for public use; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1974, Thalia became the first woman
14 commissioner on the Clark County Commission, serving with
15 distinction for 20 years, including three terms as chair, and a well-
16 known anecdote is that her male peers mistakenly thought, being a
17 woman, she should take minutes and make coffee, a notion she
18 quickly rectified; and

19 WHEREAS, Elected to the Board of Regents of the Nevada
20 System of Higher Education in 1996, Thalia fought to improve the
21 higher education system, was instrumental in the formation of
22 Nevada State College and became an advocate for the Health
23 Sciences System, which was created to address the numerous
24 community health issues of our State, and while Thalia gave up her
25 seat on the Board because of term limits, she still continues to give
26 an incredible amount of time, energy and commitment to education;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Among many other honors, Thalia received the 2006
29 Education Hero Award from the Public Education Foundation and
30 the 2008 James Cashman III Community Leader Award, was
31 inducted last month into the Nevada Business Hall of Fame, and in
32 2007, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, awarded her its highest
33 honor, an Honorary Doctorate; now, therefore, be it

34 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
35 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 75th Session of
36 the Nevada Legislature applaud Thalia Dondero for her unwavering
37 dedication and commitment to the education of the young people of
38 our State and commend her unique sense of civic duty in serving her
39 community to improve the quality of life for all Nevadans; and be it
40 further

41 RESOLVED, That the residents of Nevada recognize that they
42 have a true champion in Thalia who believes that higher education
43 should be accessible to everyone and who exemplifies that each
44 person can make a difference in their community; and be it further



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- 1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
- 2 transmit a copy of this resolution to Thalia Dondero.

