

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4—SENATORS HORSFORD, MCGINNESS; BREEDEN, BROWER, CEGAVSKE, COPENING, DENIS, GUSTAVSON, HALSETH, HARDY, KIECKHEFER, KIHUEN, LEE, LESLIE, MANENDO, PARKS, RHOADS, ROBERSON, SCHNEIDER, SETTELMAYER AND WIENER

APRIL 19, 2011

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Inducts William J. Raggio into the Senate Hall of Fame. (BDR R-1278)

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

SENATE RESOLUTION—Inducting William J. Raggio into the Senate Hall of Fame.

1 WHEREAS, The Senate of the Legislature of the State of Nevada
2 has established a Senate Hall of Fame whose members are selected
3 by leadership from those past Senators who have served with
4 distinction and who have made exemplary contributions to the State
5 of Nevada; and

6 WHEREAS, William J. Raggio, a fourth generation Nevadan, was
7 born October 30, 1926, in Reno, Nevada, and was educated in the
8 Reno public schools; and

9 WHEREAS, During World War II, William entered Naval Officer
10 Candidate training, and later was commissioned as a Second
11 Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps; after his military
12 service, he received his B.A. from the University of Nevada, Reno,
13 before going on to receive his J.D. from the University of
14 California; and

15 WHEREAS, William J. Raggio was elected District Attorney of
16 Washoe County in 1958, an office he held until 1970; while District
17 Attorney, he was named “Outstanding Prosecutor in the United
18 States” and elected President of the National District Attorneys
19 Association; and

20 WHEREAS, William J. Raggio was first elected to the Nevada
21 Senate from Washoe County in November 1972 and served over 38
22 years until January 2011, having the longest Senate service in the



1 history of Nevada, including 19 regular sessions and 13 special
2 sessions; Senator Raggio served as Senate Majority Floor Leader in
3 1987-1989 and 1993-2008, making him the longest-serving Senate
4 Majority Floor Leader in Nevada history; he also served as Senate
5 Minority Floor Leader for 6 regular and 4 special sessions; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Raggio was Chairman of the Senate
7 Committee on Finance in the regular sessions of 1987-1989 and
8 1993-2007, and served as either Chairman or Vice Chairman of the
9 Interim Finance Committee during that same time period; and
10 Senator Raggio served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee on
11 Education in 1997-1998, 2001-2002, and 2005-2006; and

12 WHEREAS, Among his legislative accomplishments, Senator
13 Raggio sponsored Nevada's Education Reform Act, perhaps the
14 most important education measure in State history; established the
15 Nevada Economic Forum to provide nonpartisan, technical
16 projections of state revenue; authored legislation providing
17 comprehensive regional planning in Washoe County; and was
18 honored as the "Father of the Airport Authority" in recognition of
19 his legislation creating that entity; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Raggio received numerous national awards
21 and honors over the years for his legislative service, including the
22 elected National Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange
23 Council (ALEC) in 1993; the Lifetime Achievement Award of the
24 National Italian American Foundation in 1999; and ALEC honoring
25 him by establishing the William J. Raggio Excellence in Leadership
26 and Outstanding Service Award; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That
28 William J. Raggio, a leader among leaders and most dedicated son
29 to his native Nevada, is hereby inducted into the Senate Hall of
30 Fame of the Legislature of the State of Nevada.

