

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6—SENATORS DENIS; ATKINSON, BROWER, CEGAVSKE, FORD, GOICOECHEA, GUSTAVSON, HAMMOND, HARDY, HUTCHISON, JONES, KIECKHEFER, KIHUEN, MANENDO, PARKS, ROBERSON, SEGERBLOM, SETTELMAYER, SMITH, SPEARMAN AND WOODHOUSE

APRIL 17, 2013

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Inducts Bernice Mathews into the Senate Hall of Fame. (BDR R-1203)

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

SENATE RESOLUTION—Inducting Bernice Mathews 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, Bernice Mathews was born in Jackson, Mississippi,
7 and moved to Reno, Nevada, in the 1950s, where she received a
8 Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Education in
9 Administration of Higher Education from the University of Nevada,
10 Reno; and

11 WHEREAS, During her nursing career, Bernice Mathews
12 advanced from a staff nurse to a head nurse at Washoe Medical
13 Center and from a clinical nursing instructor to the Director of
14 Health Sciences and Nursing at Truckee Meadows Community
15 College; and

16 WHEREAS, Bernice Mathews also became a small business
17 owner, operating a sky cap service and a gift shop at the Reno-
18 Tahoe International Airport with her daughter Aileen; and

19 WHEREAS, Bernice Mathews is the proud mother of her children
20 Arnold II, Anthony, Aileen, Barbara, Ruben, Clive and Allen
21 (deceased); and



1 WHEREAS, Bernice Mathews was elected to the Reno City
2 Council in 1991 where she was appointed Assistant Mayor, and in
3 November 1994 was elected to the Nevada State Senate representing
4 Washoe County Senatorial District No. 1, a position she held for 16
5 years, concluding her service in the Senate in November 2010
6 following 8 regular sessions and 10 special sessions; and

7 WHEREAS, During her legislative career, Senator Mathews
8 served in Senate leadership, including Senate Minority Whip in
9 1999 and Assistant Minority Leader from 2001 through 2008, and in
10 the 2009 Session served as co-chair of the influential Senate
11 Committee on Finance, a committee on which she served for all 16
12 years of her legislative service; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Mathews served on other standing
14 committees, including those concerned with human resources and
15 facilities, education, legislative affairs and operations, elections and
16 natural resources, and served on numerous policy and study
17 committees during the interim period between sessions, including
18 the Interim Finance Committee and over 20 study committees; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Mathews was the primary sponsor of
20 numerous bills that were enacted and signed into law, including
21 measures concerning public education, facilities for persons with
22 disabilities, books for school libraries, postsecondary education,
23 persons with hearing impairments, meetings of public bodies,
24 insurance for school employees, cancer screening, occupational
25 diseases, police and firefighting personnel, public guardians, domestic
26 abuse, mental health services and motor vehicle insurance; and

27 WHEREAS, Some of the numerous honors, awards and
28 accomplishments which Bernice Mathews has received include:
29 Nevada Mother of the Year; Member of the Hall of Fame of the
30 Nevada Women's Fund; Outstanding Alumni from the University
31 of Nevada, Reno, School of Nursing; Business Woman of the Year
32 from the Negro Business and Professional Women; the Outstanding
33 Service Award from the Washoe County Airport Authority; the
34 Dean's Award from the University of Nevada, Reno's School of
35 Medicine; and the President's Medal from Truckee Meadows
36 Community College; now, therefore, be it

37 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That
38 Bernice Mathews, who has dedicated many years of her life to the
39 service of the people of the State of Nevada as a practicing nurse, as
40 a member of the Reno City Council, as an educator and
41 administrator and as a member of the Nevada State Senate for 16
42 years, is hereby inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame of the
43 Legislature of the State of Nevada.

