

Senate Resolution No. 6—Senators Denis; Atkinson, Brower, Cegavske, Ford, Goicoechea, Gustavson, Hammond, Hardy, Hutchison, Jones, Kieckhefer, Kihuen, Manendo, Parks, Roberson, Segerblom, Settlemeyer, Smith, Spearman and Woodhouse

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE RESOLUTION—Inducting Bernice Mathews into the Senate Hall of Fame.

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

WHEREAS, Bernice Mathews was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and moved to Reno, Nevada, in the 1950s, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Education in Administration of Higher Education from the University of Nevada, Reno; and

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

