THE NINETY-FOURTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), May 7, 2025

Senate called to order at 11:24 a.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by Pastor Chris White.

Dear God, let our land be a land where women and men can hold their heads up high, a land where our leaders will have the courage and the permission to lead this great State, where Americans can have faith in our land, our leaders, our neighbors and You. Let it be a land safe for our children for generations to come.

May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon us. May the Lord bless our country with peace and prosperity.

Thank You, Lord, for the brave men and women who fight to keep our country the land of the free and the home of the brave. Bring peace and safety to them and their loved ones. Protect them as they serve this great nation.

Lord, please bless our lawmakers, our leaders, and all who assist them as well as their families.

In the Name of the One who is alive forevermore,

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the journal is dispensed with and the President and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Growth and Infrastructure, to which were referred Assembly Bills Nos. 523, 530, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

ROCHELLE T. NGUYEN, *Chair*

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 306, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

JAMES OHRENSCHALL, *Chair*

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 453.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By Senators Cannizzaro, Titus, Buck, Cruz-Crawford, Daly, Doñate, Dondero Loop, Ellison, Flores, Hansen, Krasner, Lange, Neal, Nguyen, Ohrenschall, Pazina, Rogich, Scheible, Steinbeck, Stone and Taylor:

Senate Resolution No. 5—Inducting Pete Goicoechea 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, Pete Goicoechea was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, attended elementary school in Ely, Nevada, graduated from Eureka County High School and attended college at Utah State University in Logan, Utah; and

WHEREAS, Of Basque decent, Pete is a third-generation rancher in Nevada whose cattle ranching operation extends throughout Elko, Eureka and White Pine Counties and before returning to cattle ranching on a full-time basis, he worked for Kennecott Copper Mining, the Eureka County Road Department, Mt. Wheeler Power and Windfall Mining; and

WHEREAS, As a volunteer firefighter and Director of the Eureka County High School Rodeo Club, Pete served his local community in Eureka County; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Pete was first elected to the Eureka County Board of County Commissioners on which he served for 16 years, 14 years of which as Chair of the Board; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Pete was elected to the Nevada Assembly to represent Assembly District 35, where he served for 10 years, holding various leadership positions, including positions as Co-Minority Whip and Assembly Minority Floor Leader and participating as an integral member of the illustrious Cowboy Caucus; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Pete was elected to the Nevada Senate to represent Senate District 19, where he served for 12 years and held positions including Chair of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs and Chair of the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water; and

WHEREAS, Pete served as a member of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means for two legislative sessions beginning in 2009, and then, after being elected to the Nevada Senate, he spent his next six legislative sessions as a member of the Senate Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his time serving in the Nevada Legislature, Pete was dedicated to supporting and strengthening rural communities across this State by championing policies to improve access to quality education and health care, advocating for legislation to protect farmers and ranchers and their way of life and promoting the responsible management of natural resources and water systems; and

WHEREAS, After completing 22 years of public service in the Nevada Legislature and just as Pete was preparing to retire to his ranch, Governor Lombardo appointed Pete to represent District 8 on the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Pete has been married to his wife, Glady, for nearly 53 years and they had three children, Julian Joseph ("J.J."), Jolene and Raymond Baptista ("Tista"), and have two granddaughters, Juliana and Amelia, who Pete affectionately refers to as "Punkie" and "Meme"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That, for his many years of devoted service to the State of Nevada and Eureka County, Nevada, as a member of the Eureka County Board of County Commissioners, a member of both the Nevada Assembly and Senate and as a Regent of the University of Nevada, Pete Goicoechea is hereby inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame of the Legislature of the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

Senator Titus moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senators Titus, Cannizzaro, Dondero Loop, Scheible, Pazina, Neal, Ellison and Ohrenschall.

SENATOR TITUS:

I have some remarks to make about my good friend and fellow Senator, Pete Goicoechea. We have to recognize him as this incredible person, a man whose legacy is woven into the fabric of Nevada's public life, a man whose boots have traversed the rangeland, whose voice has championed the needs of rural Nevada, and whose steady hand has guided policy on issues as fundamental as water, public lands and local governance. It is my distinct honor to introduce former Senator Pete Goicoechea as a member of the 2025 Senate Hall of Fame.

Pete's story is quintessentially Nevadan. Born just across the state line in Salt Lake City, he was raised and educated in Ely, attended Sacred Heart parochial school, and graduated from Eureka County High School before heading to Utah State University. As a third-generation rancher, Pete's roots run deep in Elko, Eureka, White Pine Counties, and communities he has served with unwavering commitment for decades.

Before returning to cattle ranching full time, he spent time working for the Kennecott Copper Mine, the Eureka County Road Department, Mt. Wheeler Power and Windfall Mining. He also served his local community as a Eureka volunteer firefighter and as the Director of the Eureka County High School Rodeo. In 1987, he was elected to the Eureka County Board of Commissioners, serving for 16 years, 14 of them as commission chair. From there he entered the Nevada Assembly in 2002, representing District 35 for a decade before his election to the Senate in 2012, where he served with distinction for 12 years representing Senate District 19.

Pete's legislative record is marked by leadership and expertise. He's held key positions, including Assembly Minority Whip, Assembly Minority Floor Leader, Chair of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs and Chair of the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water. He was a fixture on the money committees, serving first on the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and then the Senate Committee on Finance for six consecutive sessions. His expertise and advocacy made him the Legislature's spokesman for the rurals, a voice for those communities who are often overlooked and a tireless champion for responsible natural resource policy in the driest state in the nation.

Pete's approach to public service has always been rooted in listening to his constituents and delivering for them. When White Pine County wanted a community swimming pool, Pete authored and passed the bill to make it happen. When rural Nevada needed a voice on water and land issues, Pete was there asking the hard questions, forging consensus, and shaping the policy that will benefit generations of Nevadans to come.

But beyond the titles and the legislation, Pete is a friend and mentor to many. The Cowboy Caucus—those early morning gatherings over coffee—became a forum for camaraderie and counsel, and Pete's colleagues and legislative assistants became an extended family. His humility, honesty and integrity have earned him the respect of all who have served with him.

I know that we are honoring Senator Goicoechea today as a member of the 2025 Senate Hall of Fame. But did you know that he was already a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame? I found this somewhere, the Cowboy Hall of Fame. You will all have to read some of the descriptions of some of the members of the Cowboy Hall of Fame. But I think I really want to focus on what Pete was identified in the Cowboy—and this is clean, I kept the best one clean—he was affectionately known as the Professor Fandango Goicoechea. And according to a source, he penned the Cowboy

Rule. What Pete would be known to say, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.

Even as he retired from his legislative service, Pete's public service continued. As you heard, Governor Lombardo appointed him to the Board of Regents, where he now represents District 8 in the Nevada System of Higher Education. He told me earlier today that they promised him they'd only have four meetings a year, and so far in the first couple of months, they've had 31 meetings. He's trying to make that better.

Above all, Pete is a devoted family man. Married to Glady for nearly 53 years, father to J.J., Jolene and Raymond Baptista, or "Tista," and proud grandfather to Julianna and Amelia—as we heard, "Punkie" and "Meme"—Pete's love for his family is as enduring as his commitment to Nevada.

Senator Goicoechea, your legacy is one of service, stewardship and genuine care for the people and places of Nevada. And on behalf of the Nevada Senate, it is my privilege to welcome you to the Senate Hall of Fame, a place reserved for those who truly have made Nevada better.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

I think you are going to have to sit through many of us talking about how wonderful you are and how excited we are to have you in the Senate Hall of Fame. There are not a lot of folks where you say this, and it is very true, and this will resonate with many people here today, but they just do not make human beings like they make Pete G. He is truly a one-of-a-kind, and I remember when it came upon us that he was actually going to be termed out of the Nevada Senate, and he was going to be leaving, and I think that there may have been more tears shed in my caucus than anywhere else in the building. Everyone was really worried, like, What are we going to do without Pete? Who was going to tell us what to do when it came to some of these issues in the rules, and who was going to instruct us and educate us on water law? Who is going to be our voice of reason when it came to the money committees and we are talking about how to fund different things? Because we came to rely on you as someone who was not only the voice of wisdom but somebody who we eminently trusted on these issues and someone who we relied upon for advice.

That speaks to why when we were contemplating, okay, we are going to do the Hall of Fame this year, who should we have? When it was Senator Goicoechea, it was a resounding yes across the board, not just from the elected members of this body, all the way around, but from every member who works here, staff on down. Everyone was very excited that this was going to give us an opportunity to, again, say thank you and to recognize just how wonderful it was for those of us who did get the opportunity to serve with you, how wonderful that truly was as an experience.

Every morning when we would walk in and walk out, the Senator would walk past my desk and say, good morning. And every morning in the money committees, hey, how are you doing? How's everything? And sometimes in this building when politics gets involved, we overlook how important it is to be kind. And you have never forgotten what it meant to be kind or to extend a hello or a thank you. And that to me is something that I truly treasure and that we miss here in the building. There are very few people in this building where when they are there, there's a presence, and when they are there, everybody is looking to them to look at where it is we should be going. And that truly was the case with your service in this building. As the Minority Leader pointed out, there are so many reasons why we came to trust and to love you and having you in this building. There really is no one more befitting for the Hall of Fame today, and we were very excited to have you.

Congratulations. Your lifetime of service to this beautiful State that is our home, that is your home, is truly represented. We miss you here in the building but are very excited to have you inducted into the Hall of Fame. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your service, and I definitely rise in strong support of Senate Resolution No. 5.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Congratulations, Senator. It's my distinct honor to stand up as someone who has served in both Houses with you. When I first came to the Assembly, I watched you and Senator—or Assemblymember at the time—Carpenter, and I watched those cowboys and became a member of the Cowboy Caucus. So that was one of my crowning moments, and I still have my proclamation in my office.

I watched you. And I watched your honesty, and I watched your forthrightness. I listened carefully, and I knew that we all cared about the same thing, and that was Nevada.

And so I am truly pleased that you are receiving this honor, because you truly deserve it. We do miss you. As the Majority Leader said, we value everybody in this body, but when we lose institutional knowledge, it is something that is gone forever.

So thank you very much for all your service. Thank you for letting me be a part of the Cowboy Caucus, and thank you to all of your family for sharing you with us.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I also rise to express my gratitude to our former Senator from District 19.

In my first session, I sat back here in this row next to Senator Goicoechea. And one of my first memories of interacting with him was a story I am not sure I can repeat on the floor, I think I can, but it involved some people traveling through eastern Nevada to deliver some goods to Eureka, and the man who looked at Pete G. and said, I knew Pete G., and that ain't him. But when I look at you, I also knew Pete G., and that is absolutely who sits in front of us today.

I had the honor of visiting Eureka over the summer as part of the Public Lands Committee, which Senator Goicoechea sat on for a number of sessions, and I am just so humbled. I so admire your integrity and your honesty, because Pete Goicoechea in Eureka is the same person as Pete Goicoechea in Carson City. And he is—I think someone else said forthright—he is forthright, and he is honest. To be able to rely on somebody who will always tell you the truth, who will always reach across the aisle to work on finding solutions to real problems that face real Nevadans, it's truly a gift to this State and to this body. I am so lucky to have served with Senator Goicoechea, and I am so happy to support this motion to induct him into the Hall of Fame today.

SENATOR PAZINA:

I also rise in support of the resolution to add the Senator to the Hall of Fame. I was fortunate enough to meet Senator Goicoechea last session as the Chair of Natural Resources. And I can honestly say, I don't know what I would have done without you. Your kindness, the trust that you placed in me, and just the incredible amount of knowledge that you had made the session run so smoothly. And I was honored to sit alongside you on the committee. Seeing you today was so wonderful. I am so thrilled to have your family here and to finally meet your wife. Thank you all so much for sharing him with us these last—over two decades. While I only had the opportunity to work with you the one session, I feel honored that I had that opportunity. And I'm also honored to have worked with you over the interim on the Natural Resources Committee, where we still look to carry on some of that wonderful water rights retirement legislation. So thank you for your knowledge and your kindness, for always working across the aisle, and most of all for being a friend.

SENATOR NEAL:

Pete G., to me you represent a library. It's a library of all of the water law. We served together on both sides of the house, and the thing that I appreciated most when I would run to you and I would be like, Hey, I believe in some of the things that you are thinking about on this, and can you like object on this policy with me or try to delete portions out of this bill because they are really moving in the wrong direction? They say that when you have elders, that's what they represent, they're a library. There are books untold, and there are books that are told, but there are also books that you can never read enough of because that is what they represent. And your whole entire life is this—volumes and volumes and volumes of knowledge and wisdom that I actually gained, even though I am from the south. And so I just want to say, I miss you. I miss your wisdom. And there are times when I thought, hey, I'd love to know what Pete G. would be thinking about on this particular issue, because you are not here, and I always leaned to your moderateness when it came to Senate Finance and Government Affairs.

SENATOR ELLISON:

I stand in support for S.R. 5, and I am here to speak about a friend of mine that I have known for many years. We served together on the State Assembly for two terms. And he was the caucus leader, and he kept everybody intact. But we both have a colleague that was a close friend that served in this body that's on the Hall of Fame, Assemblyman John Carpenter. And John used to

tell me when I got elected to the Assembly, whatever you do, just follow Pete and, he says, you won't go wrong. But Pete was such a wonderful, wonderful person and had so much knowledge on water rights and land rights, and I could go on and on by the hour how much Pete knows about this body and about Nevada in itself.

Serving with Pete was such a great deal. And you know what, I even seen one time in my entire life that our teddy bear had teeth. It's when somebody in our caucus was reporting stuff that they shouldn't have, and I seen the teeth come down and cleared the room. So our teddy bear, when he needs to, he can roar.

He's been a good friend and a good man, and we still talk a lot on the phone. I can figure almost every Sunday that, for sure, Pete'll call me—and I'll either be gettin' ready to get in the shower or checkin' the news—but he'll call. I'm gonna go get in the shower, so I put my phone over by the shower, and sure enough, he'll call. And I stick my head out of the shower door and take the phone, still wet, and say, hey, Pete, what you doing?

He's got such a following. He still talks to everybody a lot, all the time. Is that correct? He's a good friend. He's a good colleague. He's a mentor. We can't thank him enough for everything he's done for this State.

Pete, thank you, and God bless you.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

I rise in support of the resolution. Like my colleague from Senate District 8, I had the honor of serving with Senator Goicoechea in the Assembly and in the Senate. He was very kind to me and would help me on public lands issues, water law issues, raw milk issues—a little bit, although I could never get Pete to vote for my raw milk bill, much as I tried.

But when I think about Pete, I think about the great champions for rural Nevada, people like Assemblyman John Carpenter, Assemblyman John Marvel, Senator Dean Rhodes, and I know that Pete Goicoechea's name is going to be up there as one of the great champions for rural Nevada.

It became harder through the years with our population centers moving to Southern Nevada and Reno, and representation became smaller for rural Nevada. But Senator Goicoechea fought even harder as the advocate for rural Nevada. So certainly I support the resolution, and I urge its passage, and it's so good to see you, friend.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Cannizzaro requested that former Senator Goicoechea's remarks be entered in the journal.

FORMER SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

This will be a lot briefer than some of the comments. It's starting to get a little embarrassing, to say the least. But first and foremost, I need to thank the voters of this great State of Nevada that saw fit to send me here—or allow me to come here and serve—for 22 years. It was eight elections—and then the previous ones as a county commissioner—but realistically those voters are the ones that had the confidence in me, and I thank them. The ability to serve with the hundreds of people in this building, in both bodies—again, I'm going to take a minute and reflect on my mentor, John C. Carpenter, and probably, in my mind, the greatest guy that's been here in the last 30 years. The words he first gave me my first session still ring true: Read the damn bill, Pete. That ain't what it says. And then, never trade a vote, 'cause you're a doomed man. So I live by those words that he gave me my first 24 hours in this building.

We talk about the Cowboy Caucus, that's really what it was all about, but it allowed me to establish relationships with people all over the State. You became my friends—and 22 years is a long time. And then I've gotta move beyond that. The staff in this building, the thousands of people we worked with over the years, because, really, you have your name on the door, but staff and your colleagues are what make it work. You can have the best idea in the world, but until you temper that with your colleagues and with staff—take a look at the picture here, and Liz was so good and went back and pulled up all the pictures. I probably should've took the first one when I had a red mustache, but that's a long time ago—so, again, I can't thank staff enough.

On that note, I would like to recognize a lady that was with me—and I do not know how she did it—Toshi McIntosh. Here's a bouquet of 14 roses, a rose for every year you had to put up with

me, together with the thorns. She started with me in 2010 in the Assembly when I was Minority Leader and carried it forward. And we talk about the Cowboy Caucus, I could be there, it could run long, I'd get to the office about two seconds to go, I could depend on every bill and every meeting I had would be laid out on the desk. I don't know when she did it. I'd leave after her in the night, but the next morning, I can guarantee you that when I hit the office door, whether it was 7:00 or 9:00, late or early, it was ready. And so, Toshi, I can't thank you enough for the 14 years, and she is just such a—and as we were upstairs today, I have to say, she was still watching out for me. Over here, Pete, do this, do that.

Along those lines—and I know we haven't got to it—but, again, there's another inductee and a good friend and a rural. You can take the person out of the country, but you don't take the country out of the person. So in the end, I think it's values that we all have and really, really appreciate. So I can't thank you enough, and at this point, I have to say it's overwhelming. But if you do something long enough, eventually you get something right. And once in a while, you get something right. So in 22 years, it's been a great time.

I also have to recognize my wife. She prepared a camp outfit for me for 11 different years. She could depend on me showing up sometime with a load of dirty laundry and expect it to be ready to go back by Sunday night, no matter what we had going at the ranch. I had to have a suit for Monday morning.

It's been a long haul. We stayed in some pretty good houses here and some not so good. I remember one over here on the east side, the dogs and cats came in because there was a big hole under the door. She wouldn't stay in it, but she did put my camp together, and we came down. In fact, one time I jokingly said, I'd be better off to just pitch a tent and tie the dog on the lawn and we'd be better off—two dutch ovens and we could've made it. But, again, I can't thank my wife enough.

Also, my colleague and sidekick for 22 years and beyond, former Assemblyman Tom Grady, and of course his family, I have to recognize them. Again, you talk about conversations, we have a phone call every morning, and we'll tell each other a lie if we don't have anything else to say.

So anyway, it's been good. It's living in this body, in the contacts and your relationships, and that's how you best represent your constituents. You know who to call and who's going to respond and how to get them relief. And that's all you can ask for, and I did.

I thank you all. I thank the voters of this State for the ability to serve them.

By Senators Cannizzaro, Titus, Buck, Cruz-Crawford, Daly, Doñate, Dondero Loop, Ellison, Flores, Hansen, Krasner, Lange, Neal, Nguyen, Ohrenschall, Pazina, Rogich, Scheible, Steinbeck, Stone and Taylor:

Senate Resolution No. 6—Inducting Joyce Woodhouse 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, Joyce Woodhouse was born in Wibaux, Montana, which is a small town near the eastern border of that state with a population of around 500 people; and

WHEREAS, Joyce found her calling in education and received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Carroll College in Helena, Montana, and master's degrees in Curriculum and Instruction and in Educational Leadership from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Carroll College, Joyce started her 40-year career with the Clark County School District in Nevada, serving as a first-grade

teacher and then as principal at James Madison Ullom Elementary School and later as a program administrator; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after entering retirement in 2006, Joyce ran for public office, with the support of her late husband, Al Wittenberg, and was elected to represent the residents of Nevada State Senate District 5 in Clark County; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure in the Senate, Joyce advocated for the children, families and schools of Nevada and focused on improving health care, expanding job opportunities and increasing classroom funding; and

WHEREAS, As a Senator, Joyce served in leaderships roles, including, without limitation, as Chief Majority Whip, and on various standing and interim committees and was designated as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections and the Senate Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, After serving 12 years in the Senate, Joyce continues to dedicate her time to various groups and organizations, including, without limitation, the Commission on School Funding, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, Silver State Schools Credit Union, Communities in Schools of Nevada and Voices in Voting and Joyce also graciously donates her time by personally reading to children; and

WHEREAS, Joyce has received many awards, including, without limitation, Outstanding Champion by the Vegas Chamber, Leadership in Education Award from Phi Delta Kappa, Distinguished Woman of the Year from Soroptimists of Nevada and Unsung Hero from the Nevada Public Education Association; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That, for her many years of devoted service to the State of Nevada as a member of Nevada Senate and her 40 years of service in the Clark County School District, Joyce Woodhouse is hereby inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame of the Legislature of the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

Senator Cannizzaro moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senators Cannizzaro, Dondero Loop, Pazina, Ohrenschall, Scheible, Titus, Nguyen, Cruz-Crawford and Taylor.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

It is truly my honor to stand here today in support of Senate Resolution No. 6. I'm going to read a few remarks about my very dear friend, Joyce, Senator Woodhouse—I just couldn't be happier to be here today.

As many of you know, Senator Raggio established the Hall of Fame to honor former Senators who served with distinction in leadership positions and who have made exemplary contributions, both within the Senate and throughout the State, even outside of this legislative body. I am honored to add another one of the greats to this list. Words cannot adequately express my feelings as I rise today to speak to this resolution inducting Senator Joyce Woodhouse into the Senate Hall of Fame.

Joyce truly embodies the best of those who choose a path of public service. Through years of dedicated service, Joyce has led with integrity, compassion, and unwavering dedication to improve the lives of all Nevadans. Many of the members in this body have had the honor of working with her on numerous issues and pieces of legislation. As all of us can attest, this process takes

dedication, cooperation, time, and a willingness to serve beyond oneself, all for the people of this great State.

So I'm going to tell you a little bit about my dear friend, Senator Woodhouse. She lived her formative years in Wibaux, Montana, a small little town on the eastern side of her home state that now boasts a population of about 500. She found her calling in education, earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Carroll College in Helena, Montana, and master's degrees in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas—Rebels.

She first came to Nevada as a college student, and from that time forward she made Las Vegas her home. And I would encourage any of you who have not heard the stories of her ventures as a young woman to Nevada, as a new teacher—they are fascinating and wonderful, and I enjoy them very much—you should ask her. Joyce served as a first-grade teacher for 17 years with the Clark County School District, then as an administrator, before retiring in 2006 after four decades of academic service. Not one to rest on her laurels, she then felt a calling to continue her public service and ran for public office, winning the honor of representing the residents of Senate District 5.

Throughout her legislative career, she made it a point to advocate for Nevada's children, families and schools by focusing on improving health care, expanding job opportunities, and increasing classroom funding, especially targeting areas most in need. Starting the groundwork in 2014, her tireless efforts led to the modernization of Nevada's education funding formula in 2019. During her time in the Legislature—which encompassed six regular sessions and nine special sessions—she served on several standing and interim committees, a very lengthy list that is a testament to her leadership and unending dedication to Nevada.

Her ability to lead was recognized with appointments to serve as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, Chair of the Interim Finance Committee, and Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance. In addition, she served in Senate leadership positions as the Senate Co-Minority Whip, Senate Co-Majority Whip and Senate Chief Majority Whip. But not even term limits have kept Senator Woodhouse from serving the Legislature. As many of you know, after completing 12 years in the Senate, she is now serving in the critical role of leadership officer within the Nevada Senate.

In addition to her legislative career, Senator Woodhouse remains active in the community, dedicating her time to the Commission on School Funding, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, and the Board of Directors for the Silver State Credit Union. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Communities in Schools of Nevada.

Organizations across the State have recognized her significant contributions to local communities. The long list of her awards is admirable and includes Outstanding Champion by the Vegas Chamber, Distinguished Woman of the Year from Soroptimists of Nevada, and Unsung Hero from the Public Education Foundation.

I'm going to take a moment because I don't know that I am going to be able to find all the words to adequately express how much, Senator Woodhouse, you have meant not just to me personally as a friend, as a mentor, but also to this body.

I say often that our paths were very destined to meet. Senator Woodhouse actually was the principal of my elementary school just before I got there. And so we've sort of been missing each other along the way of life. When I was an intern in this building, she was the Chair of the Senate Legislative Operations and Elections Committee, and I was assigned, at the time, to cover the Senate Legislative Operations and Elections Committee. And so unbeknownst to Joyce, I was sort of following her around this building well before we knew that our paths would collide in such a fashion as they have. I always admired her ability to run a very efficient committee and to be able to think about things that I thought were important when we talk about democracy and we talk about elections and we talk about how the Legislature should run. So I admired her from afar before, at some point, finding myself saying, hey, I'm gonna run for office.

Joyce was an elected Senator at the time. She was going to be running in a very tough election race, and I, foolishly, was going to jump into this crazy Senate race having no political experience of my own. She was a mentor along the campaign trail. I will tell you that I have never seen anybody work as hard as Joyce Woodhouse. The two of us were in very competitive elections. They ran in the same year. Her advice to me was, you've got to work really hard and you better be

in it to win it, and we're going to go do this. Every time I needed encouragement—when it got tough, when the days were long—she was there to boost my spirits and encourage me that I could do this and that I would be successful. And those words of encouragement meant more to me than I could possibly have imagined.

But it became my goal, actually, to beat her. We would track how many doors we would knock—and I was like, I'm gonna win, obviously. I'm going to knock more doors than Joyce Woodhouse. That was my goal. And every week we would get this spreadsheet sent to us, and every week she'd beat me. Every single week Joyce Woodhouse knocked more doors than I did. And I would go out and say, okay, I'm going to knock more doors this week. So I would. I would knock more doors than I knocked the week before, and I was like, this week I'm gonna catch her. And she would knock more doors than me. And I could not fathom how somebody—because I knew how hard I was working to get out there and talk to folks—I couldn't fathom that somebody was knocking more doors than me. One week I get in there, and it's like 12 more doors. I knocked 12 more doors than Joyce Woodhouse. And I was like, ha! I got her. I have won. This is amazing. I have done it. I have succeeded. And then I come to find out that she was actually very ill that entire week. And so much to my chagrin, I actually never really beat her, ever. She takes on every challenge in that way. There is no defeating her; there is no stopping her and her persistence. And the good nature she has about her throughout that entire persistence centers me and grounds me to remind myself to also be persistent and to also be patient and to also know that with good work, things will get done.

When I found myself faced with being the Majority Leader of this body, Joyce was the person who made the motion for me to serve in this leadership capacity and was a constant source of wisdom and strength along the way. I know former Senator Ratti is here, too. The two of us would wholeheartedly agree that we would never have made it through that session without Joyce. Her knowledge of things in a way that is not boastful sometimes goes unnoticed. The things that she knows about how this building works, the time that she has put into understanding budgets and understanding policy in health care and in education is something that if you talk to her, you know that she knows. But she is not somebody who parades around and talks about all the things that she knows or tries to prove that she is better or has more wisdom than you do. I am eternally grateful because I know for a fact that we would not have made it through that session if it weren't for Joyce.

After that session when we headed into the pandemic, going into special sessions and having to cut the budget, I don't think any of us would have made it without her. She was that steadfast hand of leadership, quiet and empowering, and I know why she was so successful as an educator. So for whatever reason, she has continued to let me drag her along this journey with me, and I have to say that I cannot think of any person that I would rather have by my side. I cannot think of any person that I have come to admire more. She is family. And one of the things I love about her is that she gives the most thoughtful cards and that, to me—I love getting a Joyce Woodhouse card. I don't throw them away. I cherish them. She is that person who not only is wickedly smart and effortlessly caring about people, she is thoughtful and kind, and when you need it, she is thinking of you. She's been along every pregnancy journey of mine with me, through the thick of it, and I remember I looked at her last session and said, hey, so I am just going to—I'm gonna go. I need to go to the hospital. I'm gonna go. I'm gonna be back in just a couple hours, don't you worry. And she was like, okay. When I left this building, she was like, listen, she's not gonna be back here in a couple hours. So we gotta get some things in line for her because she is not coming back. And Joyce was right.

She is a dear, dear friend. I can't say enough how much I admire and respect and appreciate you coming along this journey with me. As I have said, our paths were destined to meet. There is so much good that has happened in this State because of your work, either out front or behind the scenes. There are too many Nevadans that will not know that you were directly involved in making a difference for them, but there are a lot of us that do know exactly how much you have made a difference here in this great State. This is absolutely my greatest honor to have you as a member of the Senate Hall of Fame, and you are just so deserving. So I would urge all of my colleagues' support for Senate Resolution No. 6.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

I rise in support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 6. I don't know that I can do the job that the Senator from 6 just did, but I will try. I first met—or knew of—Joyce in the Clark County School District. I was a teacher, and she was a principal. And then she went into the partnership office with my dear friend, Candy Schneider. I knew that those two ladies could create a partnership office and involve the community and our schools like no other. Senator Woodhouse took that and ran with it. Didn't just run with it, she did the long haul. She did like 20 years in that partnership office, I think, and created programs that our students are still enjoying today.

Here at the Legislature, I got to work with the Senator and learned so much from her—with the exception of an occasional shopping trip to Reno that we might do, or me lying to the person that's getting on the plane telling them, no, my sister's going to sit here, I can't give up this seat. It doesn't matter what it is, she is my partner and her institutional knowledge—the Senator is so correct—her institutional knowledge is amazing. I know that I can always go to her and say, I know we had this bill in 2019 and it blah, blah, blah about education and she'll go, I remember that one. Two minutes later she's got it up on the computer, and she's telling me all about it.

I count on her as Senate Finance Chair to help me through some of the hearings that we've had. I count on her to give me her wisdom. I could stand here, like I said, for a long time telling you all the great things about her that we all know are true. But the most important is, is that with term limits, we lose institutional knowledge, and it is just a travesty. We are so blessed to have you back here working with us because what we gain from you being in that position—I hope you know how much not only we appreciate, but we also need you every single day of the 120 days or more that we are here. So with that, congratulations. Thank you so much for your friendship and thank you for all you do for the State of Nevada.

SENATOR PAZINA:

I also stand in support of Senate Resolution No. 6. I feel so incredibly fortunate. Senator Woodhouse has been one of my closest friends for so long and her support, sometimes when things seemed at their absolute bleakest—everyone in this chamber has learned at some point or another how hard elections are, and when I lost mine in 2018, she was one of the people to bring me out of the sadness. When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, she was one of the people who was by my side immediately. When anything goes wrong, I know that she's there to support me, and when things go right, she's right there by my side. She is a mentor. She is a friend. She's so incredibly knowledgeable and also just one of the kindest, most heartfelt individuals that I could ever hope to have in my life. So not only do I stand in support of the resolution, I stand in support of Senator Woodhouse and wherever her path brings her. And I'm just so fortunate it brought her into my life, into the lives of the Senators from Senate Districts 6 and 8, who said such kind things, and for everyone in this chamber who's fortunate enough to get to love and learn from her in this building. So thank you so much for all that you do, and I'm so incredibly excited to support this resolution and see you in the Hall of Fame.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 6, and I couldn't really think of anyone more fitting for this honor. Senator Woodhouse's activism and her fighting for Nevadans goes back long before she became a member of the Legislature. In the early 1970s there was a big fight in Nevada over the Equal Rights Amendment, and we might wonder now, who thinks it's strange that women and men should have equal rights? But in the 1970s, it was a very controversial issue, and Nevada was one of the last states left to adopt the Equal Rights Amendment. And the fight here was bitter, and a lot of people were scared to stand up for the Equal Rights Amendment but not Senator Woodhouse. If you go through the minutes of those hearings, there she is fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment as a private citizen in the early 1970s, which passed here in our chamber, passed the State Senate. Unfortunately, it didn't make it through the other House. But her activism, her tenacity, certainly made the difference in something that was so difficult and not like we think now, like, Who would question equal rights, women and men, being in the U.S. Constitution?

Going through the years, how she's affected my life, when I was in the Assembly and Senator Woodhouse was in the State Senate independently different people had come to us both with the same idea for a bill unbeknownst to either of us. And Senator Woodhouse was very kind to let me, this young Assemblyperson who was very green, run with the idea, and carry the idea. It was very

kind of you, Senator Woodhouse, to let me run with that idea. It did pass and get signed into law, and you were my cosponsor on that issue. But you didn't have to do that, not everybody would have done that. It was very kind of you to let me carry that bill.

When I had a bill on trying to increase Medicaid funding for autism therapy for children on the autism spectrum, the Chair of Senate Finance, Senator Woodhouse, found the time to meet with me and found the time to look through and scrape those nickels and dimes and find that money so we could raise the Medicaid reimbursement rate—because so many therapists said, I can't afford to see kids and treat kids with what Medicaid is paying—and brought us a raise that brought us closer to the national average. And that wouldn't have happened if you hadn't fought to find those dollars for that bill to get through.

I know you've affected my life in innumerable ways and supported legislation that's helped our constituents. Those are just a couple of examples I can think of. I urge the body to support the measure.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I am also so happy to rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 6 and my friend and someone I look up to—a role model—Joyce Woodhouse. I don't think I can say it any better than my colleagues did, but I do just want all of you to know that, Senator Woodhouse, I have also never knocked on more doors than she has. No matter how hard we try, we just can't. We just can't.

When I first joined this caucus in the 2019 session, I think I kind of came out of nowhere, and the Senator from District 6 picked me out of some obscure back office at the Clark County DA's office. And Senator Woodhouse treated me with kindness and respect. She treated me like an equal. And it's only been in the last couple of sessions that I have started to appreciate just how kind she was to me and how much she gave of her time. Now that I realize not only the power of the Senate Finance Chair but the obligations that come with that role, how busy she was in that 2019 session, and yet she still made time for me. I think of the times that I stopped in her office to ask her about obscure education bills, to ask her about why my bill wasn't moving in Natural Resources, and she would take the time to tell me. In retrospect, I realize that I was keeping her from important briefings and probably keeping her here later at night. But she never complained about it because she didn't view the job just as serving the people of her district but all of the people of Nevada and all of the young leaders who are coming up behind her. And I just am so grateful for that, that in my first session I could work alongside someone who's been a role model is just an incredible opportunity that I don't think lawmakers get in other states. I really don't believe that—having served for a couple of sessions now and having the opportunity to talk to lawmakers across the country who have caucuses that don't meet on a regular basis, that don't have mentors. I think that we are so lucky. I am so grateful to get to have had the opportunity to serve alongside you, and I could not think of a better inductee to the Hall of Fame today. So I urge everybody to support Senate Resolution No. 6.

SENATOR TITUS:

I, too, rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 6. I didn't know Joyce in my first session in 2015 in the Assembly—I rarely got to the Senate side. Not many of my bills made it over here in my first session, like they're not making it this session. However, I got to know Joyce in the interim committee when I was on the chair of a senior issues committee, and Joyce and I served on that committee. I got to know and respect Joyce at that time. She always did her homework, incredibly knowledgeable, especially with the issues in Clark County, which I knew very little about. We'd talk about some of the nursing home issues and some of the issues for seniors, and I grew a tremendous respect for her passion for her constituents and for this great State.

We subsequently served on—and still serve on—the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education because her passion didn't leave for education when she was no longer in this building. She continues to serve, as she is here every day in this building dealing with issues and helping mentor many folks on both sides of the aisle.

But I also have to tell you, Joyce is small, but don't let that small size fool you. She's pretty darn mighty and pretty darn tough. I just want to acknowledge that that toughness, as the good Senator Pete G. alluded to, is those country folks—grown Montana girl—they grow them tough out here in the rural areas. I would say that Senator Joyce Woodhouse is a perfect example of what it's like to grow up in rural America and then represent everybody around her and bring that kind

of importance of doing your job, holding everybody accountable. So I just want to acknowledge the tremendous respect that I have for Senator Woodhouse and what she's done for the State of Nevada.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

I rise in support of this Senate resolution as well. I think when I got into this building, you always look around as a new Legislator—and even still today—at the people that you want to emulate, the people you want to learn from. Who should be a good mentor? Who should be a good leader? Who do you want to lead by example? How do you want to be a better Legislator? How do you want to be a better person? And how do you want to be the best Senator that you can be in this building? And when I think about the people that we are so fortunate enough to learn from in here, I'm so grateful for that friendship, that leadership, that mentorship and just that passion that Senator Joyce Woodhouse brings to this building. She just embodies all of the things and all of the characteristics that you want to see in a good Legislator that is going to do what they need to do for this State. We've heard all about her kindness, her heart, her passion, her ability to knock more doors than everyone else in this building—even when she's ill and when she's sick. We've talked about her friendship and her kindness. Something that I think is common to both honorees today is their sheer kindness. We've talked about her small stature. But I will tell you the one thing that I always look to is, I also know that she will bring that heat, and she will bring that fire. She will be scary as you can be if you get in the way of what she knows to be right, and she's usually right about that.

So I appreciate the fact that we can have those dialogues. I can appreciate the fact that when I need to vent about stuff, she will just sit there and listen to me and be like, yes, you're right. She knows when I want to help with coming up with a solution, and she knows when I just want to be heard. That makes her an excellent candidate for the Senate Hall of Fame, and I obviously send my support for this resolution as well.

SENATOR CRUZ-CRAWFORD:

I also rise in strong support for our Senate Resolution No. 6. I met our Senator on Twitter. I was advised by my former assistant principal that we need to get out there and start getting community partners. I had this lady that I had not heard of named Joyce Woodhouse start following our page and retweeting and liking it. And then I found that she was a first-grade teacher at my elementary school that I'm the principal of and just a really strong, steadfast supporter of our school. I got to grow a friendship and respect for her through that. Little did I know, I think she was trying to get me to come over here and run for Senate. When I was unsure about what path I would take and I was adamant that I would not run for this office, because I didn't know how to also be a principal at the same time, it was her and our great Senator from District 8 that were able to sit me down and let me know that it is important that we have the voice of education here on the Senate side, and that there is a value add. Both of these women we are able to convince me, and I am so thankful for that every day.

SENATOR TAYLOR:

I also rise in support of our resolution. I needed to rise to say something to Joyce because before I met you, your reputation preceded you. I knew who you were. I knew about you. People talked of your wisdom and of your experience and of your expertise. So as a freshman Senator, when I got to go to you to ask questions and to get advice, and you would take time out and sit down with me and say, this is how we handle this—I'd be freaking out about something, and you'd be very calm, no problem, we can fix it, just do this—I thought, man, she must really like me because she's right there for me. And then I realized you did that for everybody because that's just who you are. But I just so appreciate the way that you have never, never made me feel unable to ask you a question. You've always been there to lend a hand and to make sure I knew it was gonna be all right. So it is my honor to rise in support of your induction into the Hall of Fame.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Cannizzaro requested that former Senator Woodhouse's remarks be entered in the journal.

FORMER SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

Thank you, all of you, for the wonderful kind remarks. And especially thank you, Senator Cannizzaro, for everything that you've done and the members of our caucus. This is such a special honor. And I do have to say, it's a bit intimidating to me. There are a couple of things that I would like to share—maybe just because I am old and I can now say some of these things—but my experiences here in the Nevada State Senate were kind of an epitome of everything that transpired from the time that I was born back in Wibaux, Montana. I do want to say first before I start, Senator Goicoechea, it is my honor to be up here today with you as inductees into the Hall of Fame. You are such a good friend and colleague, all of the years that we served here in this chamber. And so I thank you for everything that you did for me.

So I think a day like this causes us all to think back, Why and how did we get here? I was this nerdy little kid in Sweet Grass County High School in Big Timber, Montana. My senior year in high school, I had to give an oral book report—I'd never done that before. I fainted three times. Finally, Miss Conwell said, Joyce, come in at lunch, sit in a chair and give me the oral book report. So I finally got through that. But you learn by all of these things that happen to you, and I just want to share a few of those with you today.

I told you I was a nerdy kid, and going through school my passion was school—get straight A's, get that scholarship and go to college. My mom and dad did not have the money to send five daughters to college, but that's what they wanted us to do. I was the oldest, so that kind of tells you something, too. I worked summers at a restaurant, and my dad and mom were cattle ranchers—Hereford cattle ranchers, that's important—but we were able to pick out our fat beef from my dad's herd, train them, show them and sell them, and that was added to my college fund. My sisters did that, too. It's wonderful thinking back on some of those things because the years go by and you kind of forget those things, how you got to that.

But with me today—like I told you, I have four sisters. Three of them are here today. Right here is my sister, Bertie. Here is my sister, Claudia. Claudia's from Haver, Montana. Bertie's in Helena, Montana, and Cheryl, she and her husband live just outside of Seattle, in Maple Valley. But also this morning another member of my extended family showed up, surprised me. I did not know she was coming, and she is here. There she is, Patty Hansen, and she is the sister of my husband, Al Wittenberg. I was so thrilled to see her walk in the door today—hadn't seen her in 12 years.

I wanted to share a couple of things that as I graduated from high school and college were really, really important. In college, one of my first mentors—actually, my parents were probably my first mentors—but my Dean, Dean Nelly Crawley in the College of Education had told us, and we were mostly all women who were in the College of Ed, she told us when you take that first contract, you give that school district two years. I said, okay, I can give them two years, but that's all. I am leaving after two years, and I am going to go to the really big city. So I came to Las Vegas with four roommates. After the first year, they all left. I had to find more friends, a bigger support system. That got me involved in teacher union politics and in politics across the southern part of Nevada.

So a number of leadership positions, but probably the one that brought me into this building was I served four sessions as a lobbyist for the Teachers Association, learned a lot, and one day I said to myself, I could do this job, too. So here we go.

When I was still teaching, another mentor of mine was my principal, Dr. Linda Littel—we were both at Vegas Verdes Elementary School—and there was this big gulf between the educational system and the business community. She and I were talking about it one day, and we said, we have to change this. We need to have our State Legislators understand what is going on in the classrooms. They need to know what is happening to our kids. So Joyce Haldeman, we wrote a plan, Linda and I, and our first step was to invite the Senate and the Assemblymembers—and actually Assemblyman Jim Banner's wife taught next door to me, so we kind of had an in—but we got them to come to the school, visit with our kids, visiting classrooms, and come to read to children. So important. After that, Linda left Vegas Verde, and she took the school community partnership program over as the director and started the growth of that program. When she moved on, further up the ladder in the Clark County School District, I followed her as the director and my friend, Senator Dondero Loop, mentioned how Candy Schneider and I grew that program. K-12 opened a lot of doors for me because I taught first grade for 17 years, was a principal of an elementary school. But Candy and I, every subject, activity that came in our office, we found a

way to make it happen, bringing resources and activities to kids and teachers that they normally would not have had. And it was a very, very special working relationship and probably one of the best things we've ever done together.

But also, everything has a connection. The connection was former Senator Mike Schneider is Candy's husband. And between the two of them, Mike had decided that he wanted to run for the Assembly. Candy knew that I had worked for a lot of candidates in Southern Nevada. So I was convinced to help Mike run his races for the Assembly as a campaign manager. I'd never really been a campaign manager, I just kind of figured it out. We figured it out together, and that was before computers and all that stuff. He served in the Assembly—I don't even remember how many years—then came over here and served all of the time in here.

I do want to tell one story on Mike and Candy. Mike and I were walking—the Majority Leader brought this up, walking and knocking on doors—Mike and I were knocking on doors on a Saturday morning, might have even been a Sunday morning, I don't know, Sunday afternoon. Candy was at the end of the block with the car. So Mike and I are in this apartment complex—I'm not going to tell you where—he was on one side of the street, I was on the other, knocking on doors, running up to the second floor, back on down, going on down to the next building. All of a sudden, here comes Mike. His eyes are as big as saucers. He said, Joyce, start walking fast to the end of the street. Get in the car. I said, my gosh. Okay, let's go. We walked very quickly down to the end of the street. I said, Mike, what is the matter? He said there was a whole group of young men, Sunday morning, drinking beer, shooting arrows at empty beer cans on a wall. I mean, you can't make these things up. It was quite an experience.

So as we indicated, after 40 years, I did retire from the school district. Again, Mike Schneider and former Senator Steven Horsford decided that I should run for the State Senate. Mike would say, and so would Steven, you know how that all works. And I said, well, no, I don't think so. I'm in a very difficult district, and at the time it was a dual district. It went from Flamingo to Horizon Ridge on the north and the south. And on the east, it was Boulder Highway, and on the west, it was the interstate. There were two Senators in that district. But the two of those guys sat Al and I down three times, and we finally said, yes, I would go for it. Al had been an Assemblyman up here in Northern Nevada, in Reno, for two sessions, so he knew the game as well. The most important thing that he brought to the campaign—as well as walking every single day with me—was he understood targeting before targeting was a word in political circles. We were able to make the best use of our time and getting as many doors knocked on and people talked to, which is important. So we were successful that time. And I did forget to tell you, I think my interest got really turned to the positive when I was still teaching. I decided I wanted to be in the Assembly. I ran twice for the Assembly, lost twice—devastating to lose—and that's when I said I'm going to go to UNLV and get that degree. And then, of course, I got two while I was at it. But the interest in serving in this kind of a role was something that had been building. So when the opportunity came to run and serve in the Senate, I had to do that.

So the first two sessions, in my first term, I learned a lot. First session, I was in the minority. Second session, we were in the majority. I ran for reelection and lost. Oh, my goodness, another devastating blow. But we said, we can do it. So Al and I hit the campaign trail again, and we were successful. So a lot of learning under my belt by that time.

One of the things that I've learned, and saw is as Legislators, you learn and you respect the support and the expertise that you get from folks like this—the front desk, our Legal people, our constituent services, everyone that has an opportunity to interact with you as an elected official. From the bottom of my heart, I never could have done this job without the backup of the staff of the Legislature. You all are impressive, and I really, really appreciate it. We have wonderful people here, wonderful people that came before them, and we so appreciate that. That makes us be able to do our job.

I wanted to talk a little bit about a couple of Legislators that I worked with and individuals that helped me make some of the positive pieces of legislation happen. First of all, Senator David Parks, one of my very best friends of all time and still is. We have lunch every once in a while. David and I worked together, especially in Senate Finance, on so many things. He was always my backup, and I so, so appreciated everything he did. And Assemblywoman—but to me she's my Senator—Maggie Carlton. I was Senate Finance Chair; she was Assembly Ways and Means Chair, and we worked together as a team. We respected what each one of us brought to the table. And I

really, really appreciate your friendship and the work that we did together because I think it made a difference.

I can't talk about everybody here today or the ones that have come before us, but just know that you all are very, very dear to me, and I really appreciate you so much.

I've also been asked to talk about a couple of pieces of legislation that were very special to me to be able to do. I know everybody sitting here knows what the first one is: 2019, Senate Bill No. 543, and that is the new Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. I decided that I was going to take it upon myself, with help, to revise that 50-plus-year-old plan that was not serving the students in the State of Nevada because our demographics have changed. Change is hard, but change is good. So I enlisted a couple of folks to help me. One of them is Senator Mo Denis, and another special one was Jeremy Aguero from Applied Analysis. The session started in February. We started working on this in September. Kinda had an idea of what we could do by December. But we were working 7:00 a.m. in the mornings, midnight at night, trying to pull all the pieces together. And I do have to call out in deep appreciation a number of folks that helped make that happen. We wouldn't have this today if not for them helping us to do that, and that is Asher Killian and Brenda Erdoes from Legal—Brenda was there at the time—and number one, Mark Krmpotic and Julie Waller in the Fiscal Division, because they helped pull it all together. Asher and Brenda were sitting over here writing language while the Fiscal people were figuring out how the numbers were going to work because we had to do this all at the same time because the end of the session was coming. So it was very, very special. It was very, very important that we were able to do this. I do think the new Pupil-Centered Funding Plan does provide for an avenue for our children and our teachers and administrators in our schools to bring the quality to our educational system that we need. Yes, there's still work to be done, but we are certainly started down that road.

There were a number of other education issues that are my passion—it's never stopped—computer science, financial literacy, all those things that we need to do for our kids and help our teachers prepare the kids for those.

One of the things that happened when I first ran for office—I have another sister, the fourth one. She is not with us anymore. Francis was a nurse practitioner, and when I got elected, she said to me, I want you to do something for health care. Well, health care was not in my wheelhouse at all, other than do the right thing and be healthy, except she always made sure that we did a lot of those things we should do. I said, I will do what I can. Because she had died from brain cancer, I did some legislation on cancer, worked with Senator Denis on one of his bills as well. I saw when she went through her trauma some new opportunities for cancer patients weren't being allowed in Nevada, and we addressed those. She was a nurse practitioner, so I said, I have to do something for nurse practitioners. Luckily, at the same time I was trying to do a bill, so was Assemblywoman Titus over in the other House, and she had almost the same bill I did. So two sessions in a row, we had a nurse practitioner bill that made some changes that the organization wanted. It was the delight of my life to work together with you on health care because, like I said, it was not my forte, but I learned from you and really, really appreciated your support.

The last one I'm gonna share is a little hard, but I joined with Senator Pat Spearman on one of her bills, and it was on sexual trauma in the military. Once again, something I knew nothing about, other than what I'd read, but it was really, really important to Dr. Pat, Pastor Pat—I mean, she had all kinds of accolades that she'd earned. But she had the bill; I signed on with her. When it came time to testify, I presented the research, and then held her hand while she told her story for the first time about how she was abused in the military under a sexual trauma situation. And we both just said, this is something we work on together. We make it better together. And it was hard, but we told that story both on the Senate side and the Assembly side and passed it. And we did really, really well.

I have two little stories to tell about Senator Goicoechea—I'm gonna getcha. As you know, we served on Senate Finance together. It was 2015, and we were in the minority, so I couldn't get enough votes for whatever I wanted to do. I wanted to give a little bit more money to the Nevada Arts Council—I think Candy probably put this up to me to do—I wanted to give them a little bit more, $25,000 each year of the biennium, but I had to find a vote on Senate Finance. So I asked the Arts Council, if you did get some additional money, where would it go? And they said, we have to bring our resources out into the rural communities and the rural schools for the kids. I said, I'm going to go talk to Pete. So I went and I talked to Pete G. and explained what we wanted to do

and how much, and he said, yes, I will help you. So myself and another democratic member on the committee made the motion and the second. The chair called for the vote, and it passed. The chairman turned and looked down both sides of the table and said, what just happened? Pete had voted with us, so everybody then voted for the bill. So thank you, Pete, for that.

Also, and for those of you who have sat in the chamber, you know when the bill gets passed out of the committee and you come over here and somebody reads a statement into the record. As Senate Finance Chair, you have a lot of those to read, especially the last week, and a lot of them are long. Anyway, one day I had a whole stack of 'em on my desk that I had to read. I stood up and walked over and said to Pete, I want you to do the presentations on a couple of these bills today. And he looked at me, he says, why me? Really? And I said, es, you are the best person in this chamber. You are the one who knows all about water, wildlife, forestry—it goes on—and he said, oh, okay. And he did, and it was wonderful. It's just part of that partnership with all of us working together and using everybody's expertise. That's what makes it all happen.

So the last thing I want to say today—because, once again, I'm 81 years old today and proud of it. However, it takes all of us to make this happen, so many stories to tell, so many people to recognize, and I touched base with a couple of you about what we were working on. But the message that I'd like to leave, especially to the Senators in the chamber today, is as you work through the rest of this session—it's not an easy one, we'll probably go on into the months ahead—but just to remind you all, and I know you have this in your heart, you say it, we all know it, and that is we are here to serve all of Nevadans: our families, our most vulnerable. And I want to call out our children, our seniors and our veterans and ask that you to remember them when you are making the decisions these last few months.

Thank you so very much. I love you all. I appreciate it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The President and Secretary signed Senate Bill No. 458.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Buck, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Geri Kodey and Wayne Kodey.

On request of Senator Cannizzaro, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Claudia Howard, Bernie Woodhouse and former Senator Joyce Woodhouse.

On request of Senator Cruz-Crawford, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Patty Charlton, Alejandro Rodriguez and Chris Viton.

On request of Senator Daly, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Martin Fitzgerald, Dr. Mary Pierczynski and Paul Selberg.

On request of Senator Doñate, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Maggie Carlton, Brenda Erdoes and Mary Lee.

On request of Senator Dondero Loop, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to David Hudzick, Punam Mathur, Candy Schneider and former Senator Mike Schneider.

On request of Senator Ellison, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to John Piekarski and Paula Piekarski.

On request of Senator Flores, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Assemblymember Joe Dalia, former Senator Mo Denis and Judy Wytock.

On request of Senator Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Cheryl Duncan and Lloyd Duncan.

On request of Senator Krasner, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Tina Cordes and former Assemblymember Tom Grady.

On request of Senator Lange, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Mitch Fox, former Senator David Parks and Gail Tuzzolo.

On request of Senator Neal, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Scott Arkills and Alex Bybee.

On request of Senator Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Christine Hull and Nicole Rourke.

On request of Senator Ohrenschall, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Mark Krmpotic, Alisa Nave-Worth and Robb Worth.

On request of Senator Pazina, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Dr. Constance Brooks and former Senator Julia Ratti.

On request of Senator Rogich, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Marilyn McElhany and Toshi McIntosh.

On request of Senator Scheible, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Assemblymember Natha Anderson and Dr. Kenny Varner.

On request of Senator Steinbeck, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Patty Hanchett and Julie Niehans.

On request of Senator Stone, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Doug Farris and Dr. J.J. Goicoechea.

On request of Senator Taylor, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Alfredo Alonso, Diana Jones and Mike Jones.

On request of Senator Titus, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Pete Goicoechea.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved: STAVROS ANTHONY
President of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY
Secretary of the Senate