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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7—SENATORS RAGGIO, AMODEI, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, NOLAN, O’CONNELL, RAWSON, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

APRIL 28, 2003

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Commends Sonny King for his lifetime contribution as entertainer. (BDR R-1320)

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

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SENATE RESOLUTION—Commending Sonny King for his lifetime contribution as an entertainer.

1 WHEREAS, Although the birth name “Louis Antonio Donato  
2 Schiavone” may not be readily recognizable to many, the stage  
3 name “Sonny King” brings a smile to the faces of millions of people  
4 who have enjoyed a performance by this world-class entertainer;  
5 and  
6 WHEREAS, Since he was 15 years old, Sonny King has been  
7 delighting audiences with songs, jokes and comedy routines on  
8 stage in a style that is described as sincere, honest and having a  
9 “comedic flair” with “the easy approach of Sinatra”; and  
10 WHEREAS, Sonny King began his career as a singer and emcee  
11 in Hudson, New Jersey, where he did 42 shows a week for \$60; and  
12 WHEREAS, He built his act at the famed Copacabana and  
13 Havana Madrid in New York City and, after being recognized as  
14 having the enviable ability to relate and adapt to all audiences, was  
15 invited to move to Las Vegas and become a part of the show at the  
16 Sahara; and  
17 WHEREAS, Three years later, at the age of 23, Sonny joined  
18 Jimmy Durante at the Desert Inn in a partnership that lasted an  
19 incredible 28 years, with routines that never became stale because  
20 Sonny and Jimmy genuinely enjoyed working with each other and  
21 because the audience felt their love of showmanship and never grew  
22 tired of watching the two of them have a good time on stage; and



1 WHEREAS, After being introduced to Frank Sinatra, Sonny  
2 became a close friend of the "Rat Pack," was affectionately  
3 nicknamed the "Lounge Giant" by that group, who defined "cool"  
4 during the early 1960s, and demonstrated his extensive talent by  
5 writing many of the one-liners and jokes that Sinatra used on Dean  
6 Martin when the two of them performed their act; and

7 WHEREAS, During the course of Sonny's career, he has  
8 headlined at the Sahara, Desert Inn, Sands, Dunes, Frontier and  
9 Stardust in the "Entertainment Capital of the World," and he has  
10 probably performed with more stars than anyone in the  
11 entertainment business, including Red Skelton, Dean Martin, Jerry  
12 Lewis, Danny Thomas, Burt Bacharach, Joey Bishop, Sheeky  
13 Greene and many others; and

14 WHEREAS, This artist's domain is certainly not limited to one  
15 city, as he has performed at such prestigious establishments as the  
16 Chez Paree and Palmer House in Chicago, Madison Square Garden  
17 in New York and the Diplomat in Miami; and

18 WHEREAS, Also internationally acclaimed, Sonny King has  
19 starred at the Palladium Theater in London and the La Scala Opera  
20 House in Milan, has headlined in Scotland, Ireland and Greece, and  
21 has even given a command performance at Windsor Castle; and

22 WHEREAS, Not limited to live performances, Sonny King has  
23 entertained millions through the media of television and motion  
24 pictures, with 21 appearances on the Merv Griffin Show as well as  
25 special guest appearances on the shows of Mike Douglas, Johnny  
26 Carson and Ed Sullivan and roles in four movies, including the  
27 original *Ocean's 11* and *Robin and the Seven Hoods*; and

28 WHEREAS, In addition to the continuous adoration and respect  
29 from his audiences, Sonny has received awards such as induction  
30 into the Casino Legends Hall of Fame at the Tropicana and the  
31 Lifetime Achievement Award of the Variety Club International; and

32 WHEREAS, Although one might think that after 6 decades filled  
33 with such expense of energy and accomplishments Sonny King  
34 would be ready to retire and "take it easy," he still loves performing  
35 and living his belief that "he was put on this earth to serve and  
36 entertain the people and if he can get the man or woman in the  
37 audience to forget their troubles for as long as he is on stage, then he  
38 is serving his purpose on this earth"; now, therefore, be it

39 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That the  
40 members of the Senate of the 72nd Session of the Nevada  
41 Legislature do hereby commend Sonny King for his lifetime  
42 contribution as an entertainer in this state and throughout the world;  
43 and be it further

44 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Nevada hereby  
45 honors Sonny King as a legend in his own time and appreciates that



1 he has unselfishly shared his talent to make the world a more  
2 enjoyable place; and be it further  
3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and  
4 transmit a copy of this resolution to Sonny King.

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