

**THE SEVENTEENTH DAY**

---

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), February 23, 2005

Senate called to order at 11:01 a.m.

President Hunt presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Senator Tiffany, who was excused.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Albert Tilstra.

"Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
 Forgive our feverish ways;  
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
 In purer lives, Thy service find,  
 In deeper reverence, praise.  
 Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
 And let our ordered lives confess  
 The beauty of Thy peace."

Father in heaven, before we become involved in the routine of the session, we pause to seek Your help. In the quiet of these moments, I ask Your blessings to rest upon these, Your servants. Experienced in the ways of men, we know all too little of the ways of God.

Today, we have come to celebrate the 100 years of the Rotary organization. We dedicate as a gift to the State of Nevada a clock that will remind us that time continues to go on. As the clock stands in the entrance of this Legislative Building, let it be a reminder to all who drive by that You have given us a limited amount of time to be used to the best of our abilities. We ask this in Your name.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Senator Raggio moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with, and the President and Secretary be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

*Madam President:*

Your Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 70, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

Also, your Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 17, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE, *Chair*

*Madam President:*

Your Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 49, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

DENNIS NOLAN, *Chair*

## MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, Carson City, February 22, 2005

*To the Honorable the Senate:*

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day passed Assembly Bills Nos. 23, 29.

Also, I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5.

DIANE KEETCH

*Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

Madam President announced that if there were no objections, the Senate would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate in recess at 11:06 a.m.

## SENATE IN SESSION

At 11:10 a.m.

President Hunt presiding.

Quorum present.

## MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Titus moved that Senate Bill No. 36 be taken from the Secretary's desk and placed on the Second Reading File.

Remarks by Senator Titus.

Motion carried.

By Senators Townsend, Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Titus, Washington, Wiener; Assemblymen Ocegüera, Allen, Anderson, Angle, Arberry Jr., Atkinson, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Gerhardt, Giunchigliani, Goicochea, Grady, Hardy, Hettrick, Hogan, Holcomb, Horne, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Mabey, Manendo, Marvel, McClain, McCleary, Mortenson, Munford, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Perkins, Pierce, Seale, Sherer, Sibley, Smith and Weber:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6—Acknowledging February 23, 2005, as Rotary International Day in the State of Nevada.

WHEREAS, The highest distinction in life lies not in deeds we do for ourselves, but in acts performed in the service of others; and

WHEREAS, There are today approximately 1.2 million business and professional leaders in more than 31,000 Rotary Clubs in 166 countries who have dedicated themselves as servants to humanity and who are working diligently to achieve the goals of improving their communities and building understanding and peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, From its inception on February 23, 1905, as a group of four businessmen in Chicago, Illinois, whose first service project was the purchase of a horse to enable a local physician to make house calls, Rotary has maintained a record of remarkable community and worldwide accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International has garnered widespread acclaim for its flagship undertaking, the eradication of polio from the world, a project to which Rotary Clubs have contributed \$500 million and countless hours of volunteer work resulting in the immunization of nearly 2 billion children; and

WHEREAS, Other health-oriented projects to which Rotarians contribute include tuberculosis screening and treatment, AIDS education, installation of water wells and water pumps, free heart surgery for children who have potentially fatal heart conditions and reconstructive facial surgery for underprivileged children who are born with a cleft lip or cleft palate; and

WHEREAS, As the world's largest privately funded source of international scholarships, Rotary annually enables approximately 1,000 students in universities throughout the nations to study in another country, and in the United States, nearly 8,000 high school students are sponsored each year in a student exchange program to study abroad for a period of 3 months to a year; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to train those who will serve as tomorrow's peacemakers and diplomats, Rotary Clubs have recently launched a new program called the Rotary Centers for International Studies, which provides postsecondary education in conflict resolution at eight prestigious universities worldwide to 70 Rotary World Peace Scholars who are chosen in a competitive selection process; and

WHEREAS, Yet another major objective of Rotarians is to fight against illiteracy through building schools, paying salaries of teachers, serving as tutors, collecting and distributing educational materials and creating model literacy projects; and

WHEREAS, Rotary Clubs around the globe are currently providing aid to the victims of the tsunami in Asia by organizing relief committees and coordinating relief centers and medical camps, as well as collecting and distributing donated goods and contributions; and

WHEREAS, In commemoration of the centennial celebration of Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Carson City, which daily devotes time to the creation of a better place to live by providing programs and projects for children, students, businessmen, the less fortunate and the entire community, is honoring our area with the gift of a four-sided Centennial Rotary Clock that will be placed in front of the Legislative Building in Nevada's State Capital; and

WHEREAS, The four sides of this clock represent to every passerby the guiding principles of the Rotary Club, which ask, "Of the things we think, say or do, is it the TRUTH, is it FAIR to all concerned, will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS and will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"; and

WHEREAS, This clock will serve as a constant reminder of Rotary's past accomplishments and as a harbinger of future service that will provide positive and lasting impact to this community and to the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature acknowledge February 23, 2005, as Rotary International Day in the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of this Legislature express their deepest admiration and appreciation for Rotary International and for the Rotary Club of Carson City for the humanitarian efforts offered to our community and our world; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Rafael Cappucci, current President of the Rotary Club of Carson City, and to John Allen, President-Elect.

Senator Townsend moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senator Townsend.

Senator Townsend requested that his remarks be entered in the Journal.

Today is an important day not just because of the acknowledgement of the contributions made by Rotarians to the world but also because of their generosity in giving us the beautiful clock which is now officially part of the Capitol complex. It is a remarkable accomplishment.

I have been touched personally by the contributions of Rotary in their fight against polio. Those of us in this body who are of a certain age bracket remember polio and what it can do. I grew up in the wonderful city of Los Angeles where I was lucky to have been part of the first group of children to have been vaccinated against polio with the Salk vaccine. Many of my childhood friends were not so blessed. As a result, they suffered the ravages of polio. They have

remained my friends to this day. They show a great deal of courage in how they have dealt with the disease throughout their lives. They have faced greater challenges than I.

Rotarians have made an impressive commitment to the children of this world. They do not always see the results of their generosity. If you have not had a chance to meet a Rotarian and thanked them for their contributions, please do so. There is probably something in this resolution that has touched everyone or your families or friends.

Sitting with the Lt. Governor, today, is a gentleman we all know. Many people have left this Senate for various reasons over the years. Some have chosen not to go on; others have lost an election, but we all have become a part of the very small group of individuals who have served here. The gentleman I am referring to is a friend of many of ours, former Senator Lawrence Jacobsen. He held most every leadership position in this body, but there was never a day that he did not set aside other responsibilities so that he could attend his Rotary meeting. Once I received a disturbing telephone call and found our former colleague in the hospital. When he left a Rotary lunch on that day, he thought he had indigestion. His condition turned out to be serious and required major surgery. He reflects the character and commitment of the Rotarian. He has always put his family and community service ahead of himself.

On behalf of all of us, thank you for what you do. There are many people receiving the benefits of your efforts. They thank you, and we thank you for the international commitment you make to help others.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Townsend moved that all rules be suspended and that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 be immediately transmitted to the Assembly.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

#### INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Senators Heck, Hardy, Nolan, Lee; Assemblymen Hardy, Conklin, Ocegueda and Sibley:

Senate Bill No. 120—AN ACT relating to emergency medical services; transferring to the county or district board of health in larger counties the responsibility to establish a program concerning the treatment of trauma; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Heck moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Human Resources and Education.

Motion carried.

By Senators Heck, Townsend, Carlton, Hardy, Lee; Assemblymen Ocegueda, Buckley, Gerhardt, Hardy, Munford and Pierce:

Senate Bill No. 121—AN ACT relating to industrial insurance; requiring an insurer, organization for managed care, third-party administrator or employer who improperly denies payment for certain treatment or other services for an injured employee to reimburse the injured employee directly under certain circumstances; requiring the direct reimbursement of certain health insurers and casualty insurers that pay for such treatment or other services on behalf of the injured employee; providing administrative penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Heck moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Senators Raggio, Townsend, Cegavske, Beers, Washington, Amodei, Care, Carlton, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Titus and Wiener:

Senate Bill No. 122—AN ACT relating to public employees' retirement; authorizing certain public employees who served on active military duty to purchase additional years of service in the Public Employees' Retirement System; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Raggio moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Commerce and Labor:

Senate Bill No. 123—AN ACT relating to energy assistance; revising provisions governing the distribution of money collected pursuant to the universal energy charge; authorizing the transfer of certain money between the Welfare Division of the Department of Human Resources and the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry under certain circumstances; authorizing the Welfare Division to adopt certain regulations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Townsend moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Senators Heck, Nolan; Assemblymen Hardy and Oceguela:

Senate Bill No. 124—AN ACT relating to traffic laws; providing for an administrative assessment to be imposed and collected for traffic violations; requiring the proceeds from the assessment to be distributed to certain entities to support emergency medical services and services for the treatment of trauma; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Heck moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

Motion carried.

Assembly Bill No. 23.

Senator Nolan moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

Assembly Bill No. 29.

Senator Nolan moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

#### SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 22.

Bill read second time.

The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Human Resources and Education:

Amendment No. 2.

Amend sec. 10, page 5, lines 27 and 28, by deleting: "*Transition Forum Subcommittee of the*".

Amend sec. 11, page 6, line 34, by deleting: "*Transition Forum Subcommittee of the*".

Amend sec. 13, page 7, line 34, by deleting: "Transition Forum Subcommittee of the".

Amend the bill as a whole by renumbering sections 13 and 14 as sections 15 and 16 and adding new sections designated sections 13 and 14, following sec. 12, to read as follows:

"Sec. 13. NRS 426.235 is hereby amended to read as follows:

426.235 The Office of Disability Services is hereby created within the Department. The Office shall:

1. Provide access to information about services or programs for persons with disabilities that are available in this State.

2. Work with persons with disabilities, persons interested in matters relating to persons with disabilities and state and local governmental agencies in:

(a) Developing and improving policies of this State concerning programs or services for persons with disabilities, including, without limitation, policies concerning the manner in which complaints relating to services provided pursuant to specific programs should be addressed; and

(b) Making recommendations concerning new policies or services that may benefit persons with disabilities.

3. Serve as a liaison between state governmental agencies that provide services or programs to persons with disabilities to facilitate communication and the coordination of information and any other matters relating to services or programs for persons with disabilities.

4. Serve as a liaison between local governmental agencies in this State that provide services or programs to persons with disabilities to facilitate communication and the coordination of information and any other matters relating to services or programs for persons with disabilities. To inform local governmental agencies in this State of services and programs of other local governmental agencies in this State for persons with disabilities pursuant to this subsection, the Office shall:

(a) Provide technical assistance to local governmental agencies, including, without limitation, assistance in establishing an electronic network that connects the Office to each of the local governmental agencies that provides services or programs to persons with disabilities;

(b) Work with counties and other local governmental entities in this State that do not provide services or programs to persons with disabilities to establish such services or programs; and

(c) Assist local governmental agencies in this State to locate sources of funding from the Federal Government and other private and public sources to establish or enhance services or programs for persons with disabilities.

5. Administer the following programs in this State that provide services for *or benefit* persons with disabilities:

(a) The program established pursuant to NRS 426.265, 426.275 and 426.285 to provide financial assistance to persons with physical disabilities;

(b) The programs established pursuant to chapter 426A of NRS to obtain information concerning traumatic brain injuries and provide services to persons with traumatic brain injuries;

(c) The program established pursuant to NRS 426.295 to provide devices for telecommunication to deaf persons and persons with impaired speech or hearing;

(d) Any state program for persons with developmental disabilities established pursuant to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, 42 U.S.C. §§ 15001 et seq.;

(e) Any state program for independent living established pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 796 et seq.; ~~and~~

(f) Any state program established pursuant to the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, 29 U.S.C. §§ 3001 et seq. ; *and*

(g) *The Program to Encourage and Facilitate Purchases by Agencies of Commodities and Services from Organizations created by NRS 334.025.*

6. Provide information to persons with disabilities on matters relating to the availability of housing for persons with disabilities and identify sources of funding for new housing opportunities for persons with disabilities.

7. Ensure that state and local governmental agencies comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.

8. Before establishing policies or making decisions that will affect the lives of persons with disabilities, consult with persons with disabilities and members of the public in this State through the use of surveys, focus groups, hearings or councils of persons with disabilities to receive:

(a) Meaningful input from persons with disabilities regarding the extent to which such persons are receiving services, including, without limitation, services described in their individual service plans, and their satisfaction with those services; and

(b) Public input regarding the development, implementation and review of any programs or services for persons with disabilities.

9. Publish a biennial report which:

(a) Reviews the current and projected capacity of:

(1) Services available to persons with disabilities pursuant to the State Plan for Medicaid;

(2) Waivers to the State Plan for Medicaid for the provision of home and community-based services in this State;

(3) Services available to persons with disabilities from counties and other local governmental entities in this State; and

(4) Any other services available to persons with disabilities from any governmental or nonprofit agency;

(b) Identifies the costs of existing and new services in the community for persons with disabilities;

(c) Provides a strategy for the expanding or restructuring of services in the community for persons with disabilities that is consistent with the need for such expansion or restructuring;

(d) Recommends plans to provide services or programs for persons with disabilities by using the data from any waiting lists of persons seeking such services or programs;

(e) Reports the outcomes of persons with disabilities who have received services for persons with disabilities in this State; and

(f) Reports the progress of the Office in carrying out the strategic planning goals for persons with disabilities identified pursuant to chapter 541, Statutes of Nevada 2001.

10. Provide on or before January 15 of each year a report to the Governor and on or before January 15 of each odd-numbered year a report to the Legislature, including, without limitation:

(a) A summary of the activities of the Office for the preceding fiscal year or 2 preceding fiscal years, if the report is provided to the Legislature;

(b) Documentation of significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when accessing public services, if the Office is aware of any such problems;

(c) A summary and analysis of the trends in the systems of care and services available for persons with disabilities; and

(d) Recommendations for improving the ability of the State of Nevada to provide services to persons with disabilities and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Sec. 14. NRS 334.025 is hereby amended to read as follows:

334.025 1. ~~If the Governor has~~ *There is hereby* created a Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities ~~[- the]~~ *within the Office of Disability Services created pursuant to NRS 426.235. The Committee shall establish a Program to Encourage and Facilitate Purchases by Agencies of Commodities and Services from Organizations.*

2. The Program may include:

(a) A method for assisting an agency that wishes to purchase commodities or services from an organization to locate such commodities and services that meet the needs of the agency;

(b) A method for assisting an organization to locate an agency that wishes to purchase commodities or services from organizations;

(c) A method for encouraging agencies to purchase commodities and services from organizations;



(d) A method to review objections to an award of a contract to an organization, which method must be limited to a review of the process used for awarding the contract to ensure that the appropriate procedures were followed in awarding the contract;

(e) The establishment of a percentage, not to exceed 4 percent, of the full amount of payment to an organization which is awarded a contract for all commodities and services to be provided to the agency pursuant to the contract that is sufficient to pay the cost to the Committee of establishing and administering the program; and

(f) A method for collecting information from an agency in a report to the Committee, which report may include, without limitation:

(1) The number of persons currently employed at the agency who are mentally or physically disabled; and

(2) The number of contracts the agency has entered into pursuant to the program which are currently in effect and a list of the organizations with which the agency has entered such contracts.

3. In administering the Program, the Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities shall, upon request of an agency or organization, assist the agency or organization in establishing a contract for the purchase of commodities or services.

4. A contract entered into pursuant to the Program must provide for a payment to the Committee in an amount equal to the full amount of payment to the organization for all commodities and services to be provided to the agency pursuant to the contract multiplied by the percentage established pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 2.

5. As used in this section:

(a) "Agency" means a local government as defined in NRS 332.015 and using agencies as defined in NRS 333.020.

(b) "Organization" means an organization whose primary purpose is the training and employment of mentally or physically disabled persons, including, without limitation, community-based training centers for the care and training of mentally and functionally retarded persons described in chapter 435 of NRS."

Amend sec. 14, page 8, line 1, by deleting "12," and inserting "14,".

Amend sec. 14, page 8, line 4, by deleting "13" and inserting "15".

Amend the title of the bill, seventh line, after "Board;" by inserting: "creating a Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities within the Office of Disability Services; requiring the Office of Disability Services to administer a program to encourage and facilitate the purchase of commodities from certain organizations by agencies of state and local governments;".

Amend the summary of the bill to read as follows:

"SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning certain programs and services for persons with disabilities. (BDR 38-689)".

Senator Washington moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Senators Washington and Raggio.

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 36.

Bill read second time.

The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Human Resources and Education:

Amendment No. 11.

Amend sec. 12, pages 7 and 8, by deleting lines 6 through 44 on page 7 and lines 1 and 2 on page 8, and inserting:

"Sec. 12. NRS 118.105 is hereby amended to read as follows:

118.105 1. A landlord may not refuse to rent a dwelling subject to the provisions of chapter 118A of NRS solely because a service animal will be residing with the prospective tenant in the dwelling.

2. A landlord may require proof that an animal is a service animal. This requirement may be satisfied, without limitation, by exhibition of the identification card normally presented to a person with a disability upon his graduation from a school for guide dogs, school for hearing dogs, school for helping dogs or school for other service animals.

3. As used in this section:

(a) "Blind person" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 426.041.

(b) "Deaf person" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 426.055

(c) "Division" means the Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

(d) "Guide dog" means a dog which has been or is being specially trained by or in conjunction with a school for guide dogs to lead in harness and serve as an aid to the mobility of a particular blind person.

(e) "Hearing dog" means a dog which has been or is being specially trained by or in conjunction with a school for hearing dogs to alert a particular deaf person to certain sounds.

(f) "Helping dog" means a dog which has been or is being specially trained by or in conjunction with a school for helping dogs to the individual requirements of a person with a physical disability to:

(1) Provide a minimum of protection;

(2) Rescue the person in certain situations;

(3) Pull a wheelchair;

(4) Fetch dropped items; or

(5) Provide other services to the person.

(g) "School for guide dogs" ~~has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 426.085.~~

~~(h)~~ means a school which trains dogs to be guide dogs and which is approved by the Division.

(h) "School for hearing dogs" ~~has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 426.091.~~

~~(e)~~ means a school which trains dogs to be hearing dogs and which is approved by the Division.

(i) "School for helping dogs" ~~[has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 426.095.~~

~~(d)~~ means a school which trains dogs to be helping dogs and which is approved by the Division.

(j) "Service animal" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 426.097."

Amend the bill as a whole by deleting sec. 22.

Senator Washington moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Senator Washington.

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:56 a.m.

#### SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:06 p.m.

President Hunt presiding.

Quorum present.

#### MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblywomen Leslie and McClain were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblywoman Leslie invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear Senator Harry Reid.

Madam President announced that if there were no objections, the Senate would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate in recess at 5:07 p.m.

#### IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:12 p.m.

President Hunt presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senators Tiffany and Nolan, who were excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblymen Arberry Jr., Parks and Sherer, who were excused.

Madam President appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Wiener and Assemblyman Ocegüera to wait upon the Honorable Senator Harry Reid and escort him to the Assembly Chamber.

Senator Reid delivered his message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA  
SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION, 2005

Lieutenant Governor Hunt, Speaker Perkins, Majority Leader Raggio, my fellow Legislators, friends and guests:

I first came to Carson City as a member of the Assembly in 1969. I can still recall the thoughts that raced through my mind on that long, lonely drive from Las Vegas. That was my first trip. I did not want to leave my family. We had two babies, and I had a law practice. I was worried about my new life and my new responsibilities. When I finally arrived in our State Capital, my new home was a room in the Frontier Motel. It was a scary time, a real adjustment. But, as the Legislature began, my fears turned to excitement with the realization that I would have an opportunity to change things for the better.

In the 36 years since I made that trip, much has changed in our State. Our population has grown to nearly 2.5 million. Las Vegas has become one of the strongest economic engines in the Nation with the ten largest hotels in the world. Mining is back. Reno, Sparks, Pahrump, Carson City, Elko, Yerington, Fernley and Dayton have all grown dramatically.

But certain things have not changed since I made that long, lonely trip. All of us here, tonight, still have that same opportunity to make life better for the people we serve and represent. As I look around the room today, I see this Legislature is a snapshot of Nevada. We have doctors, ranchers and a nuclear physicist. We have high school teachers, elementary school teachers and lawyers. We have police officers, a fire captain and a member of the Army Reserve. We have a radio station manager, a newspaper publisher, a waitress and many others. In short, we have citizens from all walks of life who have come together to make a difference for the people of Nevada.

As I reflect on my time in Carson City, my mind and heart quickly go to the man who I believe was the best public servant this State has ever known, Governor Mike O'Callaghan. Mike worked every day to make life better for others. Mike died in church last year making the distance he traveled to heaven just a little shorter. The lessons he taught us are forever. We are elected as Democrats and Republicans but serve as Nevadans. We need to work as a team if we want positive results. Which brings to mind another Nevadan, someone not in my political party but someone I admire, Governor Kenny Guinn. We may not be in the same party, but I have great respect for him and the work he has done as Governor and all the things he did before he got here.

Speaking of members of the other political organization, John Ensign and I have set a good example of bipartisanship. We have demonstrated that it is possible to put partisan differences aside for the good of Nevada. For example, Senator Ensign and I worked together on legislation that allows our State to take the proceeds from the sale of public lands in southern Nevada and use that money to protect Nevada's parks, trails, natural areas and other special places. It is a Nevada solution to address our Nevada challenges.

Unfortunately, President Bush wants to take the money from Nevada and hand it to the federal government. This money has been earmarked for our needs. It should stay here, and the Nevada Congressional Delegation is working to prevent the Bush Administration from stealing this money. I congratulate and applaud the Legislature for the actions you have taken in resolving that the money should not come back to Washington.

That is not the only area where we are working together in Washington to make Nevada an even better place. Individual states have always regulated hunting and fishing within their boundaries, but a recent federal court ruling is endangering this right by preventing states like Nevada from setting different hunting and fishing standards for residents and nonresidents. Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle in Washington, Senator Ensign and I included, disagree with the court and are seeking to overturn it through legislation I have introduced. It is Nevadans who work to protect fish and game here; it is Nevadans who support wildlife conservation through their work and their taxes, and it is Nevadans who should get to set limits on who hunts and fishes within our boundaries.

Senator Ensign and I have also joined in introducing the Voter Integrity and Verification Act. It would require every state to meet Nevada's high election standards. Nevada is leading the country ensuring every one's vote is counted, and I believe that if every Nevada voter has a

paper ballot receipt, every voter in America should have one as well. I believe this is crucial legislation, and I will do everything I can to see that it passes.

Now, I don't too often meddle in your business but, while we're on the subject of voting, please come together and do something about voter registration before we do something about it in Washington. With all the new technology, there is no reason why Nevada should close the door to registration one month before Election Day. This is about giving Nevadans a voice in our government, and that is something we should all work and agree on, Republican, Democrat or Independent.

There is another area where we should all agree. The people of Nevada voted overwhelmingly last November to raise their minimum wage. Their voices could not be more clear. Minimum wage is decades behind cost of living. Do not make families wait another two years. You can pass this legislation and help hardworking Nevadans, like those workers here, today, get ahead with jobs that pay enough to make ends meet.

Finally, let me say a few words in closing on Social Security. There are times in public service when you have to stand and fight. I am willing to work with the President when he is on the right track, but when he gets off track, as he has on Social Security, my Democratic colleagues and I will not shy away from expressing our view of what is right and what is wrong. President Bush likes to say Social Security is in crisis as he travels across the Country. Well, the Academy Awards are this Sunday night, and if they gave an Oscar for "crisis creation," I am certain the Bush White House would win in a landslide. The truth is Social Security is not about to go bankrupt. If we do nothing, seniors will get 100 percent of their Social Security benefits for nearly the next 50 years. And even after that, they would continue to get 80 percent of their benefits. We do need to address Social Security's long-term problems, and Democrats in Congress want to work with the President to strengthen the program, but we must do it right. Let me be clear, privatization is not the answer. The President's plan will not strengthen Social Security; it will destroy Social Security. The Bush plan will result in cuts to a retiree's benefits by a third, or more, and force us to borrow nearly \$5 trillion, most of it from foreign countries like China and Japan. I want to work with the President to address Social Security's long-term challenges, but a crisis it is not. We need to find ways to help Americans save. But, we will never agree to a privatization plan that damages Social Security by making deep cuts in benefits and amassing immoral debt increases. Social Security is America's promise of a secure retirement to those who work hard and play by the rules. It is a promise we should all work to keep. I hope you will send that message loud and clear to the President by passing a resolution expressing the Nevada State Legislature's opposition to any changes in Social Security that result in benefit cuts.

As I now reflect on that 400-mile trip that took me from Las Vegas to Carson City over three decades ago, I realize my life has taken me further than I ever dreamed. From city attorney, to county responsibilities, to duties with the State and now a Member of Congress; from Searchlight to Washington, D.C. It has been a long trip with, I am told, a few bumps along the way. But, I only remember the pleasurable vistas on my life's journey. I have never forgotten what inspired me during my first days in government or the lessons I learned from Mike O'Callaghan; that we as public servants have the opportunity to make life better for those we represent. You see, the American Dream, to me, is not just another phrase. It is reality. Each day of my life I have lived the American Dream. I am grateful to the people of Nevada for permitting me to live that dream and to continue the trip I began here 36 years ago.

Senator Titus moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to Senator Reid for his timely, able and constructive message.

Motion carried.

The Committee on Escort escorted Senator Reid to the bar of the Assembly.

Senator Horsford moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.  
Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:29 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:34 p.m.  
President Hunt presiding.  
Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Amodei, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Pam Graber.

On request of Senator Beers, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Josh Miller and Monte Miller.

On request of Senator Hardy, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Mike Lee, Bob Lewis and Bruce Specter.

On request of Senator Horsford, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Conn Davis and M. Roger Leach.

On request of Senator McGinness, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Virginia Ridgeway, Michael O'Conner, Ann Cook and Alexandra Merrick.

On request of Senator Raggio, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Assembly Speaker Joseph Dini and Mouryne Dini.

On request of Senator Titus, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Helaine Jesse.

On request of Senator Townsend, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Rafael Capucci, Jacqui Capucci, John Allen, Andy Andersen, Bret Andreas, Rick Arnold, Tony Bartels, Steve Bilyeu, Jed Block, Mr. and Mrs. William Blockley, Joe McCarthy, Robin Williamson, John Copoulos, Mike Cowan, Julie Cowan, Bob Crowell, Barbara Danneo, Paul Danneo, Loretta Everson, Monte Fast, Bill Fergus, Peter Fishburn, Ken Furlong, John Griffin, Lori Haney, Ann Hansen, Don Hataway, Stan Jones, Bob Kennedy, Henry Kilmer, Bill Kirby, Greg Klick, Peter Kostas, Michele Lambert, Suzanne Larson, Steve Lewis, Ginny Lewis, Bruce Mackey, Chas Macquerre, Jan McCauley, John McKenna, Jack McQuirk, Rene McRuder, John Meder, Larry Messina, Rick Noel, Ron Norton, Fr. Jeffery Paul, Mary Pierczynski, Chuck Raffety, Belmont Reed, Steve Reynolds, Larry Rodriguez, Al Ruthledge, Steve Rye, Norm Scoggin, Dick Shepard, Steve Singer, Cheryl Stoddard, Norman Subotky, John Tatro,

Al Tilstra, Bill Van Patten, Gigi Vilanti, Joe Walls, Jim Wilson, Jack Yamine, Deb Young and Sally Zola.

On request of Senator Washington, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Michele Lambert.

On request of President Hunt, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, February 24, 2005, at 11 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Approved:

LORRAINE T. HUNT  
*President of the Senate*

Attest: CLAIRE J. CLIFT  
*Secretary of the Senate*