

Assembly Resolution No. 5—Assemblymen
Frierson, Benitez-Thompson and Wheeler

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION—Adding former Assemblywoman
Sadie Hurst to the Assembly Wall of Distinction.

WHEREAS, The Assembly of the Legislature of the State of Nevada has established an Assembly Wall of Distinction for those past members of the Assembly selected by leadership who served with great distinction and who made exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Sadie Dotson was born in 1857 in Iowa and married Horton Hurst in 1881 but later divorced, leaving Sadie a single mother with two sons; and

WHEREAS, After Sadie’s sons moved to Reno, Nevada, Sadie followed suit and became active in the Women’s Citizen Club in Reno when that entity was a potent force in political, social and civic issues and Sadie is quoted as saying “[n]othing affects the home more than politics. The more women become interested in politics the better for the home life of our nation”; and

WHEREAS, Sadie was passionately involved in the women’s suffrage movement and helped to see the successful passage of a state ballot question in 1914 to amend the Nevada Constitution by granting voting rights to women in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, In November 1918 at the age of 61, Sadie became the first woman ever to be elected to the Nevada Assembly and Nevada Legislature, representing Washoe County, and during a special session in 1920, Sadie voted with the majority to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granting women across the nation the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, During her service in the Nevada Assembly, Sadie sponsored many legislative measures and, although not all those measures were successful, they demonstrate how forward-thinking she was for her time, including granting a mother full control over her children in the event of the father’s death, requiring both husband and wife to sign all deeds held as community property, allowing women to enter into any legal contracts and prohibiting acts of cruelty against animals; and

WHEREAS, Sometime after the end of her legislative term, Sadie left Nevada to live in Southern California, and upon her departure, the Reno League of Women Voters, the successor organization to Sadie’s Women’s Citizen Club, held a reception in her honor to



express gratitude for her outstanding contributions to the rights and welfare of women in Nevada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That, for her pioneering efforts in advancing the role of women in Nevada, opening the door for women in Nevada politics and dedicated service as the first female legislator in Nevada, Assemblywoman Sadie Hurst is hereby added to the Assembly Wall of Distinction; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

