

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3—SENATORS
CANNIZZARO, SETTELMAYER; BROOKS, BUCK, DENIS,
DONATE, DONDERO LOOP, GOICOECHA, HAMMOND,
HANSEN, HARDY, D. HARRIS, KIECKHEFER, LANGE, NEAL,
OHRENSCHALL, PICKARD, RATTI, SCHEIBLE, SEEVERS
GANSERT AND SPEARMAN

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN FRIERSON, TITUS; ANDERSON,
BENITEZ-THOMPSON, BILBRAY-AXELROD, BLACK,
BROWN-MAY, CARLTON, COHEN, CONSIDINE, DICKMAN,
DURAN, ELLISON, FLORES, GONZÁLEZ, GORELOW, HAFEN,
HANSEN, HARDY, JAUREGUI, KASAMA, KRASNER,
LEAVITT, MARTINEZ, MARZOLA, MATTHEWS, MCARTHUR,
BRITTNEY MILLER, C.H. MILLER, MONROE-MORENO,
NGUYEN, O’NEILL, ORENTLICHER, PETERS, ROBERTS,
SUMMERS-ARMSTRONG, THOMAS, TOLLES, TORRES,
WATTS, WHEELER AND YEAGER

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes former state Senator Joseph M. Neal,
Jr. (BDR R-901)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing former
state Senator Joseph M. Neal, Jr.

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Nevada Legislature are
2 mourning the passing, on December 31, 2020, of one of their most
3 esteemed colleagues and one of Nevada’s most accomplished
4 citizens, former State Senator Joseph (Joe) M. Neal, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Joseph M. Neal, Jr., was born in Mound, Louisiana,
6 on July 28, 1935, and moved to Nevada in 1954; and

7 WHEREAS, After completing military service in the United
8 States Air Force, Joe received his B.A. in Political Science and



1 History from Southern University in 1963 and shortly thereafter,
2 married his wife of 32 years, Estelle Ann DeConge; and

3 WHEREAS, Upon returning to Las Vegas, Joe Neal worked as an
4 equal opportunity compliance officer for one of southern Nevada's
5 largest employers, tasked with integrating the company, and fought
6 discriminatory practices in southern Nevada for a decade; and

7 WHEREAS, After Joe Neal was first elected to the State Senate in
8 1972, becoming the first African-American person to serve in the
9 Nevada State Senate, he went on to serve in 16 regular sessions and
10 7 special sessions from 1972 to 2004, including 8 years in
11 leadership positions as Senate President Pro Tempore, Assistant
12 Majority Floor Leader, Minority Floor Leader and Assistant
13 Minority Floor Leader; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Neal served diligently and honorably as
15 Chair of the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities
16 and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources; and

17 WHEREAS, Joe Neal was the first African-American person to be
18 a major-party candidate for Nevada Governor in 2002; and

19 WHEREAS, As State Senator, Joe Neal was a champion for the
20 disadvantaged, sponsoring legislation to secure public safety in
21 strengthening the fire code for commercial buildings, to expand the
22 state library and health care systems and furthering equal rights; and

23 WHEREAS, By his retirement in 2004, Senator Neal was the
24 longest-serving State Senator in the history of Nevada and was
25 inducted into the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame in 2005; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Neal received numerous national awards and
27 honors over the years for his legislative service, including the
28 Reverend Jesse Jackson Distinguished Political Award from the
29 NAACP, a Lifetime Commitment Award from the Nevada AFL-
30 CIO and a Civil Liberty Award from the American Civil Liberties
31 Union of Nevada, and was honored by the naming of the Rawson
32 Neal Hospital Building and Joseph M. Neal Elementary School in
33 his honor; and

34 WHEREAS, Senator Neal was tireless in his commitment to the
35 people of the State of Nevada, his dedication to poor and
36 marginalized citizens for the good of the people of this State and his
37 dedication to public service, which continues on in his daughter,
38 Senator Dina Neal, who was elected to his Senate seat in 2020; and

39 WHEREAS, Joseph M. Neal, Jr., will long be remembered as one
40 of Nevada's most talented parliamentarians, dedicated protectors of
41 marginalized citizens and as the "Conscience of the Legislature,"
42 whose service will benefit generations of Nevadans; now, therefore,
43 be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
2 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 81st Session of
3 the Nevada Legislature hereby extend their deepest condolences to
4 Senator Neal's children Charisse, Tania, Withania, Dina Amelia and
5 Joseph, and his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
8 transmit copies of this resolution to the family of Joseph M. Neal,
9 Jr.; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
11 adoption.

