

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3—Senators Cannizzaro, Settlemeyer; Brooks, Buck, Denis, Donate, Dondero Loop, Goicoechea, Hammond, Hansen, Hardy, D. Harris, Kieckhefer, Lange, Neal, Ohrenschall, Pickard, Ratti, Scheible, Seevers Gansert and Spearman

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

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

WHEREAS, After completing military service in the United States Air Force, Joe received his B.A. in Political Science and History from Southern University in 1963 and shortly thereafter, married his wife of 32 years, Estelle Ann DeConge; and

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

