

SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING

JAMES L. SORENSON

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution of the Senate honors the life and accomplishments of James L. Sorenson.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ honors the extraordinary life of James L. Sorenson, his accomplishments, and their impact for good on Utah, its citizens, and the world; and
- ▶ expresses condolences to James L. Sorenson's family at his passing.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, James L. Sorenson was born in a farmhouse in Rexburg, Idaho on July 30, 1921, the first child of young parents Joseph LeVoy and Emma Blaser Sorenson;

WHEREAS, the love and encouragement provided by his parents enabled James to embrace life with enthusiasm and an optimistic attitude, even while growing up in the midst of

33 the Great Depression;

34 WHEREAS, with this attitude, James overcame the poverty of his childhood to become  
35 one of the world's leading inventors, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists;

36 WHEREAS, James was raised in northern California and received a basketball  
37 scholarship to Sierra College;

38 WHEREAS, James was later accepted into the naval V5 pilot training and V7 medical  
39 programs, but chose instead to serve a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day  
40 Saints (LDS) to the New England States;

41 WHEREAS, James enlisted in the United States Marines, graduated from Officers  
42 Candidate School, and completed his pharmacy internship;

43 WHEREAS, it was in the LDS Manhattan Ward in New York that James met his  
44 beloved bride, Beverley Taylor;

45 WHEREAS, James and Beverley were married in the Logan LDS Temple July 23, 1946,  
46 and spent 61 happy years together;

47 WHEREAS, in 1947, James made his first real estate purchase, a \$50 down payment on  
48 a newly built home in Rose Park, and made his first real estate investment acquisition, 3.5 acres  
49 on the Salt Lake Valley bench;

50 WHEREAS, after an honorable release from military service, James worked eight years  
51 for the Upjohn Company as a salesman;

52 WHEREAS, in 1957, James stopped selling for Upjohn and co-founded Deseret  
53 Pharmaceutical;

54 WHEREAS, in 1960, James sold his share of Deseret Pharmaceutical and purchased a  
55 garment manufacturer, renaming it LeVoy's;

56 WHEREAS, in 1962, the success of LeVoy's enabled James to pursue his real passion,  
57 medical products, by founding Sorenson Research;

58 WHEREAS, some of James' pioneering inventions include the disposable surgical mask,  
59 non-invasive plastic venous catheters, blood recycling and infusion systems, novel anti-clotting  
60 solutions, and the first real-time computerized heart monitoring systems;

61           WHEREAS, many of James' inventions became standard equipment in health care;  
62           WHEREAS, the host of medical innovations James invented transformed patient care in  
63 hospitals and clinics throughout the world and helped save or improve millions of lives;  
64           WHEREAS, James' inventions yielded more than 40 patents;  
65           WHEREAS, in 1980, James sold Sorenson Research to Abbott Laboratories and  
66 became its largest private stockholder;  
67           WHEREAS, James founded a family of dynamic entrepreneurial organizations in  
68 industries ranging from information technology to life sciences, real estate, and genetic  
69 genealogy;  
70           WHEREAS, enjoying success in a variety of businesses, James was constantly interested  
71 in new ideas, new technologies, and potential acquisitions;  
72           WHEREAS, in 1999, James broke ground on Rosecrest, a master-planned subdivision  
73 on the Salt Lake Valley's southwest bench;  
74           WHEREAS, in 2000, James founded Sorenson Genomics LLC;  
75           WHEREAS, in 2001, James founded the nonprofit research organization Sorenson  
76 Molecular Genealogy Foundation;  
77           WHEREAS, in 2007, James broke ground on Jordanelle Ridge, a high-end  
78 master-planned community in Heber Valley;  
79           WHEREAS, James greatly enjoyed acting on new ideas, creating companies to make  
80 them a reality, and getting involved in worthwhile endeavors;  
81           WHEREAS, despite his professional and philanthropic accomplishments, James  
82 consistently maintained that his greatest legacy was his family, including 47 grandchildren and  
83 28 great-grandchildren;  
84           WHEREAS, James spent many hours reading poetry, which brought him great solace;  
85           WHEREAS, James loved being alone in nature and enjoying its beauties;  
86           WHEREAS, James took a great interest in people and it was not in his nature to  
87 distinguish himself from others; and  
88           WHEREAS, the life of James L. Sorenson convincingly demonstrates the power one

89 person can have to better the lives of many:

90           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the state of Utah honors  
91 the extraordinary life of James L. Sorenson and all that he did to better the lives of Utahns and  
92 many millions of other people throughout the world.

93           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate expresses its most sincere condolences  
94 to James L. Sorenson's family at his passing.

95           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to James L.  
96 Sorenson's family.