

Nomination or Suggestion for Honorary Doctorate

1. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Doctorate.

William J. Raggio
P O Box 281
Reno, NV 89504-0281

2. Honorary Doctorates shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions for the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's universities. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

See attached.

Nominator: Dr. Milton Glick Date 1/18/11

President: Dr. Milton Glick Date 1/18/11

Institution: University of Nevada, Reno

(B/R 4/91)

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

Honorary Degree Nomination – Senator William J. Raggio

The University of Nevada, Reno is pleased to nominate Nevada State Senator William J. Raggio for an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. This honor is in recognition of Senator Raggio's significant contributions during a 38-year period as a member of the Nevada State Legislature to the Nevada System of Higher Education, to the state of Nevada, and to the citizens of Nevada whose lives were bettered by the educational opportunities afforded them by Senator Raggio's remarkable legislative career. Senator Raggio's abiding concern for the value of higher education, and his principled and reasoned pursuit of landmark legislation to ensure that Nevada has a more educated and informed citizenry, has forever modernized the delivery of a college education in the state.

Senator William J. Raggio, a fourth-generation Nevadan, is the son of native Nevadans, William and Clara Raggio. He grew up not far from the campus of the University of Nevada in a small home on Valley Road. Following service in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, he graduated from the University of Nevada with a bachelor's degree in 1948. He earned his law degree in 1951 from the University of California Hastings College of Law and also attended Boalt Hall, entered private practice, and then became a deputy District Attorney for Washoe County in 1952. He was elected District Attorney in 1958 and re-elected in 1962 and 1966. In 1965, he was named the Outstanding Prosecutor in the United States and named President of the National District Attorneys Association in 1967.

Senator Raggio was elected to the Nevada State Senate in 1972. He embarked on what would become the longest service in Nevada State Senate history – 19 regular and 13 special sessions. During this time he became known as an institution within an institution, showing an unparalleled concern for the traditions of the Nevada State Senate and producing landmark legislation for both K-12 and higher education in Nevada. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Legislative Committee on Education, Senator Raggio advocated for a stronger system of higher education. His leadership enabled the state's colleges and universities to expand their physical infrastructure through numerous capital improvement projects, and his support for student-centered initiatives such as the Governor Kenny C. Guinn Millennium Scholarship program, enabled the Nevada System to see record-setting student enrollment growth on all of its campuses.

Senator Raggio is a partner in the statewide Jones Vargas law firm, and is a member of the board of directors of the American Legislative Exchange Council and served as its National Chairman. In 1999, he was recognized by the University of Nevada, Reno Alumni Association as its Outstanding Alumnus and by the Athletic Association of the University of Nevada, Reno with its Jake Lawlor Award. Several buildings and facilities throughout the state are named in his honor, including the William J. Raggio Education Building at the University of Nevada, Reno. Senator Raggio is married to Dale Checket, who has been his invaluable legislative aide. Senator Raggio and his late wife, Dorothy, had three children: Leslie, Tracy and Mark, and six grandchildren.

Senator William J. Raggio is hereby nominated for an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Nevada, Reno for his dedicated statesmanship, landmark legislative record and commitment to the Nevada System of Higher Education and the University of Nevada, Reno.