



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, the foundation for the Rite of Passage program was established in 1984 with twelve young men and six staff in a ranch house on the sovereign land of the Washoe Tribe in Gardnerville Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Rite of Passage treatment system was established as an invaluable alternative to traditional incarceration and punishment using the concepts of experiential education, positive respectful behavior, and community service; and

WHEREAS, the Rite of Passage program has evolved in 25 years to achieve national recognition as an evidence based treatment system based on academics, athletics, faith, cultural awareness, community service, pro-social behaviors and vocational training, and the Rite of Passage program student body in Nevada provides yearly on average 18,000 hours of local community service; and

WHEREAS, during the last 25 years the Rite of Passage program has documented service to over 20,000 youth and their families across the nation, and over the last 25 years the Rite of Passage corporation has created employment opportunities and well being for hundreds of Nevada citizens and their families and generated commerce for Nevada businesses as a national leader in the child care industry; and

WHEREAS, Rite of Passage serves approximately 100 Nevada youth daily and is relied upon by Nevada juvenile justice administrators and juvenile court judges as a viable part of the Nevada Juvenile Justice treatment/detention reform system; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the Rite of Passage system is found in the dedicated staff and administration who are committed to the core values of the program and believe in the dignity and self worth of every youth who crosses their threshold; and

WHEREAS, Nevada recognizes and congratulates the staff and administration of the Rite of Passage program for the 25 years of unconditional service, guidance, and care on behalf of the students and families they have served; their evidenced based programs are complimented by a strong work ethic and a relentless desire to do what works for at risk youth in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I JIM GIBBONS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim July 31, 2009, as a day in honor of

THE RITE OF PASSAGE



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 15th day of July, 2009

Jim Gibbons
By the Governor: Governor
[Signature]
Secretary of State
By *[Signature]* Deputy