State of Nevada Executive Department

A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, *Paul Dominique Laxalt was born on August 2, 1922 in Reno, Nevada, the son of a Basque shepherd, Dominique, and a Basque mother, Therese, both of whom had immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s from their homeland in the Pyrenees, the mountains which straddle France and Spain; and*

WHEREAS, *Paul played on the 1938 state basketball champion team at Carson High School before graduating and later attending Santa Clara University and when World War II broke out, Paul joined the U.S. Army and served as a medic, seeing action in the Battle of Leyte in the Philippines. After the war, he graduated from the University of Denver (1949) law school; and*

WHEREAS, *in 1950, Paul Laxalt ran for District Attorney of Ormsby County, serving from 1950-1954; and*

WHEREAS, *in 1962, he ran for Lieutenant Governor of Nevada and served one term from 1963 to 1967; and*

WHEREAS, *he ran for Governor of Nevada in 1966, serving one-term from January 1967 to January 1971; and*

WHEREAS, *with the financial support of Howard Hughes, Laxalt helped establish the state's first community colleges, and the first medical school; and*

WHEREAS, *along with Ronald Reagan, governor of neighboring California, Laxalt helped create the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, which was designed to protect majestic Lake Tahoe; and*

WHEREAS, *Laxalt led the way to allow corporate ownership of gaming establishments, expanded the park system, implemented prison reform, appointed the first African-American to a NV governor's cabinet and left his successor a budget surplus; and*

WHEREAS, *in 1974, Laxalt ran for the United States Senate and, after winning election, was appointed by then-Governor Mike O'Callaghan to serve out Senator Alan Bible's unexpired term; and*

WHEREAS, *Laxalt won re-election in 1980 and served as a U.S. Senator until January 3, 1987; and*

WHEREAS, *during the Carter administration, Laxalt became co-chair of the Senate Western Caucus, a bi-partisan coalition of Western Senators who were mainly united on public land and water issues; and*

WHEREAS, *as a Senator, Laxalt led the fight against the Panama Canal Treaties, helped stop the MX missile basing system from coming to NV, passed legislation to help victims of crime, passed an amendment to slash funding for the Yucca Mountain program, played a key role in implementing President Reagan's legislative agenda, convinced former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos to leave office peacefully and thus helped to prevent a bloody Civil War; and*

WHEREAS, *one of Laxalt's initiatives that gave him great personal satisfaction was the Intern program he established during his two terms in the United States Senate, which was designed to bring college-age students to Washington, D.C., to work in Laxalt's Senate office for the equivalent of a college semester; and*

WHEREAS, *Laxalt became close friends with Ronald Reagan during his time as governor, when Reagan was also in his first term as governor of neighboring California and they worked on many issues of mutual interest to the two states, principally those dealing with the preservation of Lake Tahoe; and*

WHEREAS, *Laxalt served as national chairman of Reagan's three presidential campaigns and nominated him at three national conventions and during Reagan's presidency, Senator Laxalt was sometimes referred to as "The First Friend" and as the president's closest confidant on Capitol Hill, Laxalt advanced the President's agenda in the U.S. Senate and even the House. He became the "go-to guy" for Senators and House members wishing to "get the ear of" the Reagan White House. At the request of President Reagan, Laxalt served as General Chairman of the Republican Party from 1983-1987; and*

WHEREAS, *after his public service career, Laxalt was a partner in a national law firm and later formed a small government consulting firm known as The Paul Laxalt Group; and*

WHEREAS, *the Paul Laxalt Mineral Engineering Center, an $11 million building that was completed in 1983 on the campus of the University of Nevada-Reno, was named in his honor as was the Paul Laxalt State Building in Carson City, which is a former U.S. Post Office and was the first federal office building constructed in Nevada; and*

WHEREAS, *Paul Laxalt is a former Republican District Attorney, the 23rd Lieutenant Governor of Nevada, the 22nd Governor of Nevada and U.S. Senator; and*

WHEREAS, *Paul Laxalt has a special fondness for the Laxalt family property at Marlette Lake, which he has described as his "slice of heaven on earth"; and*

WHEREAS, *Paul Laxalt is a loving husband to wife Carol, father to daughters Gail, Sheila, Michelle, Kevin, Kathleen and Denise and son John Paul; and*

WHEREAS, *he is a loving brother to sisters Sue and Marie and was a loving brother to brothers Robert, John and Peter (all deceased); and*

WHEREAS, *Paul is extremely proud of his brother Robert's book, "Sweet Promised Land"; and*

WHEREAS, *Paul Laxalt will celebrate his 90th birthday on August 2, 2012;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, *do hereby proclaim August 2, 2012 as*

PAUL LAXALT DAY IN NEVADA

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 2nd day of August, 2012

Governor

By the Governor:

Secretary of State

By Nicole Hamboley

Deputy