

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0003

Commemorating Nellie Tayloe Ross.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Nethercott, Hutchings, Jones and Schuler and Representative(s) Angelos, Bratten, Campbell, E, Connolly, Lawley, Ottman and Thayer

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th anniversary of  
2 Nellie Tayloe Ross becoming the first woman to hold the office  
3 of governor in the United States.

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5 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross was born on November 29, 1876, in  
6 St. Joseph, Missouri; and

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8 WHEREAS, after being raised in the great plains and midwest,  
9 Nellie Tayloe Ross came to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and married  
10 William B. Ross, a lawyer and aspiring politician; and

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12 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross was described as gracious, funny,  
13 smart and strongly loyal to her friends and family; and

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1 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first lady of Wyoming  
2 in 1922 after her husband, William B. Ross, was elected  
3 governor; and

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5 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross was relied upon by her husband,  
6 who consulted her daily on political life; and

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8 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross was asked to run for governor by  
9 the state party chairman after William B. Ross died a month  
10 before the election; and

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12 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross, who had political ambitions, was  
13 advised not to run for the office of governor by friends and  
14 family but nonetheless accepted her party's nomination on  
15 October 14, 1924; and

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17 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross won the gubernatorial election on  
18 November 4, 1924, by a margin of approximately ten percent  
19 (10%); and

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21 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross assumed office as the first woman  
22 governor in the United States on January 5, 1925, tackling

1 hardships throughout the state, including drought, farm and  
2 ranch failures and bank failures; and

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4 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross served as governor for one (1)  
5 term, but her remarkable political career did not end once  
6 she left the governor's office; and

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8 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross once again made history in May  
9 1933 when she became the first woman to hold the position of  
10 director of the United States mint; and

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12 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross served as director of the United  
13 States mint through the Great Depression, World War II and  
14 the Korean War and is the longest-serving United States mint  
15 director in history; and

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17 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross retired from the United States  
18 mint in April 1953 and lived a prosperous life until her death  
19 at age one hundred one (101) on December 20, 1977; and

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21 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross remains the only woman to have  
22 served as governor of Wyoming and one (1) of seven (7) women  
23 to serve as director of the United States mint; and

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2 WHEREAS, Wyoming is the Equality State and has been home to  
3 many historical achievements by women; and

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5 WHEREAS, Nellie Tayloe Ross continues to be an inspiration to  
6 many people across Wyoming and the United States; and

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8 WHEREAS, January 5, 2025, marked the one-hundredth (100th)  
9 anniversary of Nellie Tayloe Ross' historic inauguration.

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11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE  
12 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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14 **Section 1.** That the State of Wyoming recognizes and  
15 commemorates the life and achievements of Nellie Tayloe Ross  
16 on this momentous anniversary.

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1           **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the president of the  
3 United States, to the president of the senate and speaker of  
4 the house of representatives of the United States congress  
5 and to the Wyoming congressional delegation.

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(END)