

Distinguished Nevadan Nomination Form

Deadline: December 31

Please send all nominations to:

**Scott G. Wasserman, CEO and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512
e-mail: Scott_Wasserman@nshe.nevada.edu Fax: (775) 327-5049**

1. **Salutation:** Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Dr.

2. **Nominee's Name** (*Please ensure correct spelling.*):

James D. Santini

3. **Nominee's Mailing Address:** _____

4. **Nominee's Phone Number:** **Work:** _____

5. **Employment History** (*Attach additional material if necessary.*):

Please see biographical information (attached).

6. **Educational Background** (*Attach additional material if necessary.*)

Please see biographical information (attached).

7. **Reasons for Nomination** (*Please include outstanding accomplishments, achievements, and contributions to Nevada and its people. Please be specific and provide considerable detail. You may attach additional pages if necessary.*):

Please see biographical information (attached).

8. **Other NSHE Awards** *(Please list other awards this individual has received.)* ;

9. **Nominated by***: The full Board of Regents

* Candidates for the Distinguished Nevadan Award may only be nominated by a current member of the Nevada Board of Regents. (Added 6/05)

James D. Santini

The Honorable James D. Santini was born in Reno, Nevada in 1937. He graduated from the University of Nevada in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and in 1962 from Hastings College of Law with a Juris Doctorate. He served as an officer in the United States Army from 1963-1966. Jim was named Deputy District Attorney for Clark County from 1966-1968 and was appointed by the Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada Commission to serve as the County's Public Defender from 1968-1970, earning the distinction of being selected as one of the three most outstanding Public Defenders in the Nation. Shortly thereafter, he was elected as Justice of the Peace for Las Vegas from 1970-1972.

The Italian Consul General awarded Jim with the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 1972 after Nevada Governor Mike O'Callahan appointed him Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada's District Court Judge. He was the first Italian to serve in this position as well as the youngest judge to be appointed in Nevada's history. Jim served in this capacity until his election to the United States Congress in 1974.

Jim represented the State of Nevada as its only Member of Congress from 1975 to 1983. Jim chaired the Mines and Mining Subcommittee and was a member of the Oversight and Special Investigations Subcommittee, Public Lands Subcommittee, Interstate and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee, Transportation and Commerce Subcommittee, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and the Select Committee on Aging, Housing and Consumer Interests. During his congressional service, Jim co-founded and chaired the U.S. Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus.

In 1980, Jim became the first legislator ever honored by the Copper Club as Copper Man of the Year. The National Association of Counties named him their Outstanding Congressional Leader. The National Association of Businessmen called him the Watchdog of the Treasury. In 1981, Jim received Travel Industry of America's Man of the Year in Travel award. In 1993, Tour and Travel News recognized him as one of the industry's twenty-five most influential executives and in 1998, the United States Air Tour Association presented Jim with the Aviation Leadership Award. In 2005, NTA awarded him with the Bob Everidge Lifetime Achievement Award.

Today, Congressman Santini is one of the most respected lobbyists in Washington representing the travel and tourism industry. In addition to his role as Legislative Consultant for the National Tour Association since 1983, he also serves as Legislative Counsel for the United States Air Tour Association (USATA), as Policy Advisor for the National Park Hospitality Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Institute of American Indian Arts, a position he has held since President Ronald Reagan appointed him in 1988.

JAMES D. SANTINI

Travel Industry Recognition and Leadership

1998 Aviation Leadership Award from United States Air Tour Association

1997/98 Co-Chair of American Recreation Coalition monthly Exchange Issue Luncheons

In the October 1998 edition of Business and Commercial Aviation "Washington" columnist David Collogan identified Santini as one of six industry leaders who saved FAA air space management jurisdiction.

1995/1996 Chair, Public Lands Working Group, Travel and Tourism Government Affairs Council, Travel Industry America.

1995 Outstanding Business Coalition Fair Competition Service Award for serving as 93/95 chair.

In the January 1994 edition of Tour and Travel News, Santini joined a select group that included Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena, American Airlines CEO Robert Crandall, Hyatt Hotels President Darryl Hartley-Leonard and other industry leaders who were recognized as "The 25 Most Influential Executives in the Tour and Travel Industry."

1993/1994, Santini co-chaired with Earlene Causey, President of American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) the Travel and Tourism Government Affairs Council's (TTGAC) \$380,000 Campaign to Keep Travel Competition. This campaign coalesced the entire industry to challenge unfair taxes and fees being foisted upon the American traveler. This service continued Jim's 1991 service as co-chair of the TTGAC Tax Working Group.

From 1988/1997 Santini served as a member of the Executive Committee of the

TTGAC that represented 36 national associations in the tourism industry.

From 1983/1998 Santini was a member of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus Advisory Board.

Washington, DC Representation

Since 1983 to present Mr. Santini has been the Washington, DC Representative of the National Tour Association. This association represents the nation's \$13 billion group travel industry.

Legislative Counsel for United States Air Tour Association from 1994 to present. Jim has served the USATA as their Washington, D.C. Legislative Counsel.

Washington, DC Consultant to the National Parks Hospitality Association that represents most all the concessioners at the National Parks providing hotel, restaurant, gift shop, etc., services to the park visitor.

Institute of American Indian Arts - The only federally chartered US and Alaskan native two-year educational institution providing core education subjects around a curriculum specializing in native arts and cultural education.

1987/1993 Washington, DC Consultant for American Escrow Association.

Industry Recognition and Activity

In 1980, Santini received NTA's "Third Annual Award of Merit for representation of the tourism industry. In this same year he was given the "National Legislative Award" by the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association. In 1981, Santini received Travel Industry of America's "Man of the Year in Travel" recognition. In 1987 the U.S. Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus presented Jim with its Appreciation Award for that year.

Chairman, Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus (1979-1982)

In 1978 Jim Santini was a founder and the first Secretary/Treasurer of the U.S. Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus in the House of Representatives. During Jim's Chairmanship, the Caucus became the largest Democrat/Republican Caucus organization in the House of Representatives with over 280 members. The Tourism Caucus was the first of its kind in the House. Finally, the travel and tourism industry had a specific organizational focus and support group in the House. Under Jim's Chairmanship the Caucus led the legislative charge that produced the National Tourism Policy Act of 1981. This law was also a legislative first.

Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Mines and Mining (1978-1982)

During Jim Santini's four terms in Congress, he was recognized as the leading advocate for the nation's mineral interests in Congress. During his Mines and Mining Subcommittee tenure, the National Materials Policy Act of 1980 was adopted by the United States Congress. In addition, Chairman Santini successfully guided geothermal energy legislation through the House of Representatives. The Mines & Mining Subcommittee conducted extensive hearings and wrote important reports dealing with the need for national minerals policy and a review.

Under Santini's guidance, the President of the United States instituted the "Non-Fuel Mineral Policy Review Study of 1977." In addition, Chairman Santini directed the passage of the Federal Oil and Gas Management Act of 1981 and Amendments to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1980.

Member, Committee on Energy & Commerce (1975-1983)

The powerful House Energy & Commerce Committee had jurisdiction over all of the energy, communications, tourism, health, environment, consumer affairs and railroad issues. With the exception of the House money committees, no other committee in the House of Representatives has more authority over important issues confronting the U.S. Congress and the American people.

Other Professional Activity and Experience

In 1988, appointed by President Ronald Reagan to a six year term as a trustee of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development board. He has been reappointed by President Clinton.

Santini served on the American Indian Higher Education Board from 1986-1991.

During 1986-88, Santini served on the Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School Board of Visitors.

In 1983, Santini was appointed by Governor Richard Bryan to serve as a member of Nevada's first Commission on Tourism where he served until 1986.

District Court Judge, Clark County, Nevada (1972-1974) -- Lecturer for the American Academy Judicial Education and the National College State Judiciary

Justice of the Peace, Las Vegas City (1970-1972) -- Founder and second President, Nevada Judges Association

Public Defender, Clark County, Nevada (1968-1970) -- One of three Outstanding Public Defenders in the nation, 1969

Deputy District Attorney, Clark County, Nevada (1966-1968)

Owner/Lecturer, "Nevada Bar Review" (1968-1973)

Awards and Honors

Copper Club "Man of the Year", 1980 -- First public officer holder to receive this recognition

Watchdog of the Treasury, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980; National Association of