

**Senator
Harry Reid
Statement**

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I've been connected with Henderson for most all my life. When I was a little boy, in fact, a baby, my father, my parents moved to Henderson during World War II. My father worked down at the plants -- BMI as we called it then. We lived at 55 E. Texas Street, just across the alley from the Vincent family, who I've had a lifetime friendship with.

I have some memories of those early days even though I was a little boy. I can remember once my brothers -- I had two older brothers who went to Basic High School. One of my brothers took me to basketball practice with him. It was a big deal for me to be able to go to basketball practice at the old gym where the City Hall now is. But he told me, "Don't say a word. You have to keep quiet." And I wanted to go with my big brother so badly. He was 10 or so years older than I. I didn't say a word, but he forgot me. When practice was over, he forgot that he had brought me. And I just sat there until the gym lights were turned out, and finally they realized that I was not -- I was missing -- and they came back and got me. I remember that.

I have a few memories of Henderson as a little boy but not too many. My brothers both went to Basic High School in Henderson. I know that my brother Don, my oldest brother, was student body president at Basic High School. My brother Dale, I believe, was student body vice-president at Basic High School, and as I indicated, both brothers were quite a bit older than I am. They were both athletes. Las Vegas High School was the big opponent. They were the big bully in effect in the whole state; they were always so good in football. And one of the early teams when I lived there as a little boy, my brother Don played on. They tied Las Vegas High School. And then my brother

Dale was really a gifted athlete. He was a tremendous baseball player and a good basketball player. He shot the winning basket to beat Las Vegas High School in basketball -- first time they'd beaten Las Vegas High School.

So when the, actually it was right before the war ended, we moved back to Searchlight. My dad went back into the mining business, and it was when I got to high school age -- they didn't bus people around in those days -- so I came to Basic High School in Henderson. Because my two brothers went there, it was something I looked forward to with great anticipation. That was really a thrill for me to go to high school. I used to look through the annuals, El Lobo, the Basic High School annuals, of my two older brothers, and I would study the players and who they were. And I can still reflect back on some of the people on my brother Don's ball teams and my brother Dale's ball teams.

I remember we would, even before I went to high school, we would drive over the Henderson. My brother Dale was as I said a good athlete and a tremendous baseball player, and I can remember down where, about where Lake Mead Boulevard meets the Boulder Highway, right there on that corner there was a baseball field. And it was all dirt and we'd come over from Searchlight, watch Dale play ball. It was summertime, and Searchlight, of course, is 10 degrees or so cooler than Las Vegas and Henderson. Oh, I can remember that day it was so hot. I was a little boy watching my brother play baseball. So I have quite a few memories of Henderson.

High school was a wonderful time of my life. I don't know if I've ever had a better time in my whole life than high school. I came to the big city. Henderson seemed big to me at the time. High school was probably just a few hundred, maybe 400 kids. I don't

know how many kids in high school, not too many. And it was a great experience. Met friends, and people treated me so well even though I was kind of the hick that came from Searchlight. People were not mean to me. They didn't try to embarrass me. They were nice to me.

The most important election of my life was when I was at Basic High School. I was elected junior class treasurer. That may not sound like much to a lot of people, but for me, I felt that I'd finally been able to become one of the people from the big city. They accepted me. I was a junior class treasurer.

And then the next year, in an upset, I was elected student body president against one of my friends who had been elected freshman class president, sophomore class president, junior class president, but in an upset vote, I was able to win the race for student body president, which was a great experience for me. To serve with Don Wilson as vice-president, and Margaret Senlein (phonetic) as secretary, it was a lot of fun we had in those days. We formed the first, arrange frankly, arranged -- the first county-wide student body officers association. That was a lot of fun. I enjoyed doing that.

And I owe a lot to the people of Henderson. As I said I would come over during the week and live with people and go home on weekends to Searchlight. Then for one of those years, I don't know, my junior or senior year, my dad got a job in Henderson, came over for a little while. So I -- we did have a home for a short time in Henderson, a home of our own. I didn't have to hitchhike back and forth. In Henderson I lived all over. I lived on Ivy Street. I lived in two different places on Texas Street. I lived on Pacific, Magnesium, and maybe a few other places. So we've lived all over in Henderson.

The people of Henderson I owe a lot to. When I graduated from high school the town's people, the business people gathered together and gave me a scholarship. It wasn't based on grades. It was based on -- they wanted me to be able to go to college, and it was a big help to me. I had an athletic scholarship, but my athletic career faltered quickly, but this scholarship that they helped me with was a tremendous help to me, my college education.

Then I went away to law school and came back after graduating from law school and became right away the city attorney. It was kind of a fluke that I got that. The city attorney had recently resigned, and my father-in-law, a wonderful man, Dr. Gould, went to the city council and said, "Why don't you give my son-in-law a try? He's the only person who's graduated from law school here at Basic." And they interviewed me and gave me the job, and it was a wonderful experience for me. It was my first political job.

And from then on I've tried to maintain a close contact with Henderson, worked hard with them to accomplish some of the things that I've -- that they've been able to do. Their tremendous growth has been fantastic, and I've watched that as city attorney and then my other political jobs as I've proceeded through my adult life.

Probably the most important thing though for me in Henderson has been being able to meet my wife. She was a sophomore in high school. I was a junior in high school, and from those days many, many years ago, we've been together since then. She lived right on the corner -- you know that street Lake Mead Boulevard's had a lot of different names: BMP Road, Lake Mead Boulevard, Frontier Boulevard. It's had a few different names. But she lived right on the corner. Now there's a motel there where her

home was. And for part of the time we lived on Magnesium Street, and rather than go the street, I would just drive through the desert there to her home.

And so I have fond memories of Henderson because of my wife. We've had five children. Now we have, soon to have 13 grandchildren. I owe all that to Henderson. For people who live in Henderson now, it has a great heritage. Fifty years -- Henderson has done so much. It was founded to contribute to the effort of war, contributed a great deal. You look at those plants -- they were the difference in winning and losing. But for that plant we couldn't have done some of the great things we did in World War II. It was a supplier of essential metals and materials that were manufactured only there.

Henderson is also now the second-largest city in the State of Nevada. I can remember people saying when I was in high school that someday Las Vegas and Henderson would be connected. I used to think to myself, "Yeah, sure." Well, they were right, and I was wrong. Henderson not only has a great past, it has a great future. Thank you.