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SENATE MEMORIAL 17

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF ROUTE 66 AND ITS LEGACY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, United States highway 66, better known as route 66, was a product of a grassroots movement for better roads and was one of the original highways and a main artery of the United States numbered highway system when it was established in 1926; and

WHEREAS, route 66 was known as "the great diagonal highway" that began in Chicago; sliced through the midwest; rolled across the great plains; straddled the deserts and mountainscapes of the great Southwest, including the beautiful Santa Rosa area; and ended at the edge of the Pacific ocean in Santa Monica, California; and

WHEREAS, route 66 became a symbol for the American

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1 heritage and legacy of travel and seeking fulfillment by moving  
2 west; and

3 WHEREAS, Santa Rosa came of age during this transportation  
4 era, first through the connection of the Chicago, Rock Island  
5 and Pacific railroad and the El Paso northern railway on  
6 December 26, 1901, and then twenty-five years later when route  
7 66 was defined through existing roadways in Santa Rosa and New  
8 Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, route 66 in Santa Rosa went straight through the  
10 downtown's main street, then turned east at what is now Lake  
11 drive and Fourth street, eventually passing Blue Hole, Santa  
12 Rosa's natural spring water swimming and diving paradise; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1937, a redesign of route 66 established the  
14 route as it is today, and many restaurants, bars, motels and  
15 gas stations were built along the way to serve the traveling  
16 public; and

17 WHEREAS, many Santa Rosa residents recall an upbringing  
18 with parents, grandparents and great-grandparents that raised  
19 families with ties to route 66-related businesses and legacies;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in 1972, interstate 40 was completed and took  
22 route 66's place as a legacy to automobile travel; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2026, Santa Rosa will join the nation in  
24 celebrating the centennial and legacy of route 66, known as  
25 "the mother road", as a national treasure; and

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1           WHEREAS, many celebrations are planned in Santa Rosa,  
2 including a new lighted sign across the bridge at the middle  
3 interchange, a musical road on the west side of town and  
4 tourist-friendly projects such as a new website and events  
5 calendar;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
7 OF NEW MEXICO that recognition be extended to the centennial of  
8 route 66 in Santa Rosa and throughout New Mexico; and

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the governor.