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SENATE MEMORIAL 37

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. GEORGE I. SANCHEZ TO EDUCATION, BOTH IN NEW MEXICO AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM OCTOBER 4, 2013 AS "GEORGE I. SANCHEZ DAY" IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Dr. George I. Sanchez was born in the Barelas community of Albuquerque on October 4, 1906, the son of an Arizona miner; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez graduated from Central high school, now known as Albuquerque high school, in 1922; and

WHEREAS, at age seventeen, Dr. Sanchez began his teaching career at Yrisarri, New Mexico, traveling by horseback thirty-five miles to and from Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, at age nineteen, Dr. Sanchez became principal at Griegos-Candelarias consolidated schools in Bernalillo county,

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1 working there for another six years; and

2 WHEREAS, from 1930-1933, Dr. Sanchez attended and later
3 taught at the New Mexico normal school in Las Vegas, New
4 Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, at age twenty-three, Dr. Sanchez received his
6 bachelor's degree from the university of New Mexico in 1930;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez completed his master's degree in
9 education from the university of Texas at Austin in 1932; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez returned to work in New Mexico after
11 getting his doctorate in philosophy from the university of
12 California, Berkeley in 1934; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez then became a professor at the
14 university of New Mexico, teaching there for about five years;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez went on to serve as director for the
17 division of information and statistics in the New Mexico state
18 department of public education for four years; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez was the president of the New Mexico
20 education association for one term; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez in 1940 published a study of twenty-
22 two villages in the Taos area and wrote about the educational
23 neglect in northern New Mexico by federal, state and local
24 authorities in a still-popular book, *Forgotten People: A Study*
25 *of New Mexicans*; and

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1 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez wrote many excellent articles in the
2 *New Mexico School Review* and other national journals and
3 publications, advocating for a better education for all
4 children; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez collaborated with many prominent
6 university of New Mexico educators, such as President James
7 Zimmerman; Simon Peter Nanninga, dean of the college of
8 education; Loyd Tireman, education department chair; Professor
9 Joaquin Ortega; Professor Arturo Campa; and many others; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez worked actively with the twelfth
11 legislature of New Mexico on many educational policies; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez was a notable and distinguished
13 scholar, educator, activist, pioneer and visionary in the early
14 days of public education in New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez, as a professor of education at the
16 university of Texas at Austin, returned to New Mexico to study
17 the Navajo country and to present papers in many institutions
18 of higher learning; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez continued to contribute to education
20 for all children nationally and internationally through his
21 outstanding work at the university of Texas until his death in
22 1972; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Sanchez's educational legacy extends beyond
24 the policies he helped to craft, as members of his family
25 continue to pursue careers in education, including his

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1 granddaughter, Cindy Kennedy, a Santa Fe teacher; and

2 WHEREAS, there are ten schools in Texas and three in
3 California named after Dr. George I. Sanchez, but none in his
4 home state of New Mexico;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to proclaim
7 October 4, 2013 as "Dr. George I. Sanchez Day" in New Mexico to
8 honor the work and life of Dr. Sanchez; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Sanchez be recognized for
10 the seventeen years of dedicated service he gave to New Mexico,
11 as well as his thirty-two years of service to Texas and the
12 rest of the United States; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the family of Dr. Sanchez.