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SENATE MEMORIAL 15

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

HONORING ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL J. SHEEHAN FOR HIS SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO AND OFFERING CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS RETIREMENT.

WHEREAS, Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan was installed as the eleventh archbishop of Santa Fe on September 21, 1993; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as the lead archdiocesan shepherd, he rebuilt the archdiocese during a tumultuous period and created a safe environment for all of his parishioners; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan continues to strengthen New Mexico's four hundred years of faith with his extensive theological knowledge and deep fervor; and

WHEREAS, the archbishop is a highly acclaimed spiritual leader and prolific writer, noted for his energy and willingness to meet with parishioners and state leaders throughout the diocese; and

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1 WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan will submit his resignation to
2 Pope Francis on the archbishop's seventy-fifth birthday, July
3 9, 2014, per canon law, which requires diocesan bishops to
4 submit their resignation to the pope on reaching age seventy-
5 five; and

6 WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan was born in Wichita, Kansas,
7 on July 9, 1939 and was raised in Texarkana, Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, the archbishop studied for the priesthood at St.
9 John's seminary and Assumption seminary in San Antonio, Texas
10 and completed his priestly formation at the North American
11 college in Rome, Italy; and

12 WHEREAS, he did his theological studies at the Gregorian
13 university, where he received his licentiate in sacred theology
14 degree in 1965. In 1968, he returned to Rome for studies in
15 canon law and received his doctorate from the Pontifical
16 Lateran university in Rome in 1971; and

17 WHEREAS, the archbishop served several churches in the
18 Dallas-Fort Worth area before being named monsignor of the
19 diocese of Lubbock, Texas in 1983; and

20 WHEREAS, since his installation as archbishop of Santa Fe
21 in 1993, Archbishop Sheehan has served as a strong moral
22 compass for his parishioners and is held in high esteem
23 throughout New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan gives tirelessly of his time,
25 serving on numerous boards and committees benefitting his

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1 church and his community; and

2 WHEREAS, the citizens of New Mexico are grateful for
3 Archbishop Sheehan's joyful leadership and integrity, for his
4 friendship and for his fifty years of service to the
5 priesthood;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan be recognized
8 for his significant contributions to New Mexico and be offered
9 congratulations on his retirement; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
11 transmitted to Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan.