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A JOINT MEMORIAL

HONORING MIKE RUNNELS AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Mike Runnels, who served as New Mexico's  
lieutenant governor in the early 1980s and as a former  
district attorney, died in February 2015 at the age of  
sixty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Mike grew up in Lovington, New Mexico, coming  
from a family with a long political history; Mike's father,  
Harold "Mud" Runnels, served as a state senator for twelve  
years before being elected to five terms as a United States  
congressman from the second district until his death in 1980;  
and

WHEREAS, Mike moved to Santa Fe in the 1970s and was  
elected to the Santa Fe city council in 1976 for a four-year  
term and worked as the director for common cause New Mexico;  
and

WHEREAS, after Mike graduated from law school at the  
university of Texas, he was elected New Mexico's lieutenant  
governor on the same ticket with Governor Toney Anaya; and

WHEREAS, Mike was instrumental in bringing the national  
main street program to New Mexico, persuading his colleagues  
in the legislature to establish this program and convincing  
Governor Anaya to allow him to sign the bill; and

1           WHEREAS, to carry on his father's work, Mike ran two  
2 separate campaigns for his late father's congressional seat,  
3 and although they were unsuccessful, congress' loss was the  
4 thirteenth judicial district's gain, as he was elected  
5 district attorney and served two four-year terms from 1992 to  
6 2000; and

7           WHEREAS, Mike often expressed his enjoyment of public  
8 service, telling a reporter that "politics is often a pain,  
9 but having the chance to do something good in the public  
10 arena is real satisfying"; and

11           WHEREAS, colleagues have described Mike as a dedicated  
12 public servant and remarked on his astute political mind, his  
13 wide-ranging interests, his collection of historical and  
14 political memorabilia and his keen intellect; and

15           WHEREAS, Mike, a voracious reader, never lost his  
16 interest in state or national politics, daily reading at  
17 least five national newspapers, and he was never reluctant to  
18 participate in any political discussion, always making his  
19 position very clear; and

20           WHEREAS, former Governor Anaya noted that Mike's parting  
21 was "way too soon" and that it should make everyone reflect  
22 on how fragile life is; and

23           WHEREAS, Mike is survived by his ninety-two-year old  
24 mother, Dorothy Runnels; his sons, Joshua Runnels and  
25 Sean Runnels; his brothers, Phillip Runnels and

1 Matthew Runnels; and his sister, Eydie Runnels;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Mike Runnels be recognized and  
4 remembered for his outstanding service to the state; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to members of the Runnels family. \_\_\_\_\_

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