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HOUSE MEMORIAL 104

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Bealquin Bill Gomez

A 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;

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1 and

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, colleagues have described Mike as a dedicated
19 public servant and remarked on his astute political mind, his
20 wide-ranging interests, his collection of historical and
21 political memorabilia and his keen intellect; and

22 WHEREAS, Mike, a voracious reader, never lost his interest
23 in state or national politics, daily reading at least five
24 national newspapers, and he was never reluctant to participate
25 in any political discussion, always making his position very

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1 clear; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Mike is survived by his ninety-two-year old
6 mother, Dorothy Runnels; his sons, Joshua Runnels and Sean
7 Runnels; his brothers, Phillip Runnels and Matthew Runnels; and
8 his sister, Eydie Runnels;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Mike Runnels be
11 recognized and remembered for his outstanding service to the
12 state; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to members of the Runnels family.