

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING REPRESENTATIVE DONA GALE IRWIN AND RECOGNIZING HER
3 OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

4
5 WHEREAS, after nine terms of dedicated public service,
6 Representative Dona Gale Irwin will be retiring from
7 legislative service; and

8 WHEREAS, a Democrat, Representative Irwin represents
9 house district 32, which covers Grant, Hidalgo and Luna
10 counties; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin's legislative priorities
12 are seen in the committees on which she serves: the business
13 and employment committee; and the agriculture, water and
14 wildlife committee; and

15 WHEREAS, coming from the Deming area, Representative
16 Irwin has always been supportive of agriculture and the
17 initiatives that help farmers and ranchers; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin does not hesitate to take
19 strong stances on issues important to her and has a
20 forthright manner; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is a Silver City native
22 who spent her early years living with her family at the
23 Silver City fire department residence, where her father
24 served as fire chief; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin attended Silver City

1 public schools and western New Mexico university; and

2 WHEREAS, in high school, Representative Irwin was on the
3 annual staff, played volleyball and was a majorette with the
4 band; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin learned to ride horses at
6 an early age and participated on horseback in the annual
7 fourth of July parades; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin married Bert Irwin, now
9 deceased, in 1951, and they had a daughter, Janet, and a son,
10 Craig; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was a stay-at-home mother
12 for many years and was a substitute teacher at Columbus
13 elementary school; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin became a teacher's aide at
15 Columbus elementary school, where she taught English as a
16 second language to young children; and

17 WHEREAS, to this day, Representative Irwin is approached
18 by former students who remember her fondly and thank her for
19 teaching them English; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin's background is in
21 finance, and she was employed by first New Mexico bank as a
22 marketing officer until her retirement; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is very active in her
24 community and is a charter member of both the borderbelles
25 and the copperbelles, chapters of the cowbelles; is a

1 toastmistress and a member of the chamber of commerce and
2 golden gossip; and is a silver spike, among many other
3 interests; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was a Luna county
5 commissioner from 1982 to 1986 and the mainstreet project
6 manager in Deming from 1986 to 1990; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin lived on the family farm
8 in Columbus for many years, and she moved to Deming in 1997;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was elected to the New
11 Mexico house of representatives in 1998; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is held in high esteem by
13 colleagues, in friendship and respect;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that
16 Representative Dona Gale Irwin be recognized and honored for
17 her dedication to the representation and well-being of the
18 people of New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to Representative Dona Gale Irwin.