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A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Representative Irwin attended Silver City  
public schools and western New Mexico university; and

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

WHEREAS, Representative Irwin learned to ride horses at

1 an early age and participated on horseback in the annual  
2 fourth of July parades; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin married Bert Irwin, now  
4 deceased, in 1951, and they had a daughter, Janet, and a son,  
5 Craig; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was a stay-at-home mother  
7 for many years and was a substitute teacher at Columbus  
8 elementary school; and

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

12 WHEREAS, to this day, Representative Irwin is approached  
13 by former students who remember her fondly and thank her for  
14 teaching them English; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is very active in her  
19 community and is a charter member of both the borderbelles  
20 and the copperbelles, chapters of the cowbelles; is a  
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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  
11 New 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 SENATE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Representative Dona Gale Irwin be  
16 recognized and honored for her dedication to the  
17 representation and well-being of the people of New Mexico;  
18 and

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