

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 106

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Joseph Cervantes

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10 A MEMORIAL

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

13
14 WHEREAS, after nine terms of dedicated public service,
15 Representative Dona Gale Irwin will be retiring from
16 legislative service; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin married Bert Irwin, now
17 deceased, in 1951, and they had a daughter, Janet, and a son,
18 Craig; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was a stay-at-home mother
20 for many years and was a substitute teacher at Columbus
21 elementary school; and

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

25 WHEREAS, to this day, Representative Irwin is approached

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1 by former students who remember her fondly and thank her for
2 teaching them English; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is very active in her
7 community and is a charter member of both the borderbelles and
8 the copperbelles, chapters of the cowbelles; is a toastmistress
9 and a member of the chamber of commerce and golden gossip; and
10 is a silver spike, among many other interests; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was a Luna county
12 commissioner from 1982 to 1986 and the mainstreet project
13 manager in Deming from 1986 to 1990; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is held in high esteem by
19 colleagues, in friendship and respect;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that Representative Dona Gale Irwin be recognized
22 and honored for her dedication to the representation and well-
23 being of the people of New Mexico; and

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

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