

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 141

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Joseph Cervantes

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9  
10 A MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOHN GAW MEEM.

12  
13 WHEREAS, John Gaw Meem is known for designing architecture  
14 that is of New Mexico: sunbaked, open to the vast panoramas of  
15 the desert landscape and that speaks of New Mexico's rich  
16 cultural diversity; and

17 WHEREAS, he is known for bringing Spanish pueblo-style  
18 architecture to maturity and is known as the father of Spanish  
19 pueblo revival architecture; and

20 WHEREAS, he developed the university of New Mexico's  
21 master plan, and served as the architect for Scholes hall,  
22 Johnson gymnasium, Hokona hall, the masterful and iconic  
23 Zimmerman library and thirty-five other buildings; and

24 WHEREAS, John Gaw Meem was instrumental in the development  
25 of the Santa Fe planning commission and was its first chairman

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1 in 1945; and

2 WHEREAS, he served as a regional advisor for the historic  
3 American buildings survey from 1934 to 1955; and

4 WHEREAS, he was a pioneer in historic preservation and was  
5 instrumental in the development of the 1957 Santa Fe historic  
6 district ordinance, which became the template for other  
7 municipalities, towns and villages; and

8 WHEREAS, John Gaw Meem is recognized for his work with  
9 historic churches, including San Esteban del rey mission at the  
10 Pueblo of Acoma; the church of the holy faith in Santa Fe; St.  
11 John's Episcopal church in Albuquerque; the Presbyterian church  
12 in Taos; Santo Tomas church in Abiquiu; and Cristo Rey church  
13 in Santa Fe, among others; and

14 WHEREAS, he is also recognized for his landmark buildings  
15 in the southwest, including the Colorado Springs fine arts  
16 center, the Santa Fe plaza facades, La Fonda on the plaza and  
17 Los Poblanos in Albuquerque, which was once the Governor Albert  
18 F. Simms residence; and

19 WHEREAS, he is recognized for his work with local  
20 craftsmen participating in the federal works progress  
21 administration's employment and training programs, as well as  
22 for his related interior design work, including traditional  
23 furniture, woodwork, lighting and metalwork designs; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1947, as the first president of the American  
25 institute of architects' New Mexico chapter, he recognized the

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1 role that architects have in safeguarding the health, safety  
2 and welfare of the people of New Mexico in the built  
3 environment; and

4 WHEREAS, John Gaw Meem led a life of service, including  
5 serving on the juvenile affairs committee, the Santa Fe boy's  
6 club and the committee for the United Nations appeal for  
7 children; and as a board member of the school of American  
8 research, St. John's college, the museum of international folk  
9 art foundation and the Santa Fe fiesta council; and

10 WHEREAS, he is recognized for his honesty, generosity,  
11 humility and integrity and for his dedication as a family man  
12 who raised a family equally dedicated to service, architecture  
13 and New Mexico;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
15 OF NEW MEXICO that John Gaw Meem be recognized and honored for  
16 the value he brought to the built environment and the people of  
17 New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the family members of John Gaw Meem.