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HOUSE MEMORIAL 9

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Randall Pettigrew and Brian Egolf

A MEMORIAL

REMEMBERING JOHNNY COPE AND RECOGNIZING HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE.

WHEREAS, Johnny Cope, a long-time New Mexico businessman, was born in Midland, Texas, and his family moved to Hobbs, New Mexico, when he was an infant; and

WHEREAS, Johnny died on December 13, 2020 in Palm Desert, California; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, Johnny graduated from Hobbs high school, where he played varsity baseball, and later earned a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting from eastern New Mexico university; and

WHEREAS, after college, Johnny initially wanted to pursue banking, but a prominent Hobbs family offered him a finance job in their oilfield pipe and supply company; and

WHEREAS, Johnny took the position and within a few years

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1 was co-owner of Lasco construction, buying out his partners in  
2 1978 and a few years later establishing Hobbs rental, an  
3 oilfield service company; and

4 WHEREAS, these companies were the beginning of numerous  
5 eclectic business ventures that spanned over forty years; and

6 WHEREAS, in addition to the construction business, during  
7 his business career Johnny became involved as a partner and  
8 investor in numerous oil and gas investments, oil and gas  
9 service companies, security companies and manufacturing  
10 companies, employing hundreds of people throughout the country;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Johnny's goal was to make Lea county a diverse  
13 economy during oil downturns; and

14 WHEREAS, Johnny's philanthropy and generous spirit spanned  
15 donations from small to large projects, such as local youth  
16 sports and the university of New Mexico and Texas tech  
17 university athletics; and

18 WHEREAS, Sam Cobb, mayor of Hobbs, New Mexico, noted that  
19 Johnny's companies and investments contributed to the economic  
20 health of the community by providing hundreds of jobs, and his  
21 philanthropy benefited many institutions and organizations; and

22 WHEREAS, among the many projects in which he was involved  
23 was the development and launch of the Johnny and Marty Cope  
24 learning center in Ruidoso, which connects youth to the  
25 Smithsonian institution; and

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1           WHEREAS, Johnny was involved in the creation of the CORE  
2 center of recreational excellence, a new golf course and the  
3 Zia crossing housing project; and

4           WHEREAS, Johnny is also credited with helping to land a  
5 number of Lea county economic projects, including the URENCO  
6 USA enrichment plant, the Lea county correctional facility and  
7 the Zia Park casino, hotel and racetrack; and

8           WHEREAS, Johnny's public service included sitting on the  
9 boards of the New Mexico community assistance council under  
10 Governor Toney Anaya and the state transportation commission  
11 under Governor Bill Richardson; and

12           WHEREAS, Johnny was a member of the New Mexico amigos and  
13 the boys club of Hobbs and Lea county, was active in united way  
14 of Lea county and was a founding member and served as chairman  
15 of the Eddy-Lea energy alliance; and

16           WHEREAS, Johnny valued loyalty and friendship above all  
17 and gave anyone the opportunity to befriend him; and

18           WHEREAS, Johnny once stated that he "started with zero and  
19 I want this country perceived that if you can dream it, you can  
20 make it happen. That's what America is about"; and

21           WHEREAS, Governor Richardson lauded Johnny as a true New  
22 Mexican champion who will be sorely missed; and

23           WHEREAS, Johnny was a lifetime member of the first  
24 Presbyterian church in Hobbs; and

25           WHEREAS, Johnny is survived by his brother, Tommy; his

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1 daughter, Kyleigh; his stepchildren, Sharron and J.R.; his  
2 nephews, Johnny and Zack; and nine grandsons;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Johnny Cope be  
5 remembered and recognized for his community service; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the family of Johnny Cope.

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