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SENATE MEMORIAL 25

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING ROBERTO A. MONDRAGON FOR HIS POLITICAL  
ACTIVISM AND HIS DEDICATION TO PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING  
HISPANIC HERITAGE IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Roberto A. Mondragon is a well-known and highly  
respected public figure in New Mexico, with deep roots in New  
Mexico's cultural and political life, spanning careers as a  
politician, musician and activist; and

WHEREAS, Roberto is a veteran radio host, singer-  
songwriter and former politician who is dedicated to  
maintaining Hispanic heritage; and

WHEREAS, Roberto was born on July 27, 1940, grew up in the  
tiny village of La Loma and has always retained his roots in  
northern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Roberto began his political career serving as a

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1 Democratic state representative for Bernalillo county from 1967  
2 to 1970; and

3 WHEREAS, Roberto served twice as lieutenant governor under  
4 former governor Bruce King; and

5 WHEREAS, Roberto was New Mexico's youngest lieutenant  
6 governor when he was elected and served from 1971 to 1975,  
7 followed by a second stint as lieutenant governor from 1979 to  
8 1983; and

9 WHEREAS, Roberto, described as an "old-fashioned  
10 populist", took on the role of ombudsman in an effort to  
11 advance causes to which he was committed: services for the  
12 aged, juvenile justice, migrant worker welfare and Hispanic  
13 civil rights; and

14 WHEREAS, from 1975 to 1978, Roberto was the director of  
15 the commission on aging and from 1983 to 1985 was the director  
16 of the state housing authority; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1994, Roberto was the green party nominee for  
18 governor; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2005, Roberto was tapped to help guide the  
20 state with one of its most crucial issues, water, as the  
21 special water projects coordinator for the office of the state  
22 engineer; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to his political activism, Roberto is  
24 also an accomplished musician and musical artist; and

25 WHEREAS, Roberto's first job out of high school was as a

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1 radio announcer on KABQ-AM, which was then a Spanish-language  
2 radio station in Albuquerque; and

3 WHEREAS, Roberto recorded two albums in the late 1970s and  
4 early 1980s, *Que Cante Mondragón* and *Amigo*; and

5 WHEREAS, one of his early recordings is *Mi Carrito*  
6 *Paseado*, a humorous "Spanglish" homage to a less-than-reliable  
7 automobile; and

8 WHEREAS, *O Fair New Mexico*, the official state song of New  
9 Mexico, was adopted by the New Mexico legislature in 1917; and

10 WHEREAS, 2021 is the fiftieth anniversary of Roberto's  
11 well-known recording of the Spanish-language version of the  
12 state song, *Asi Es Nuevo Mexico*, adopted by the New Mexico  
13 legislature in 1971; and

14 WHEREAS, Roberto broadcasts *Aspectos Culturales*, a  
15 bilingual Spanish and English weekly radio show, where he deals  
16 with various aspects of Hispanic culture in New Mexico,  
17 including language, values, beliefs, history, folklore and  
18 other relevant topics; and

19 WHEREAS, Roberto also honors the recently deceased by  
20 researching, producing and announcing obituaries aired on two  
21 northern New Mexico radio stations; and

22 WHEREAS, Roberto's empathy and compassion for the deceased  
23 and their families is conveyed by Roberto's gentle, deep voice,  
24 recognizable throughout northern New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, Roberto also previously published a bilingual

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1 magazine, *Amigos*, which was distributed to schools, libraries  
2 and senior centers throughout New Mexico;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
4 OF NEW MEXICO that Roberto A. Mondragon be recognized and  
5 honored for his dedication to the preservation and maintenance  
6 of Hispanic heritage in New Mexico; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fiftieth anniversary of  
8 Roberto's well-known recording of the Spanish language version  
9 of the state song, *Asi Es Nuevo Mexico*, be celebrated; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to Roberto A. Mondragon.