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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
1996

INTRODUCED BY
MANNY M ARAGON

A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING THE LEGISLATURE'S CONGRATULATIONS TO MARIA BENITEZ ON
HER RECEIVING A NOMINATION FOR THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS.

WHEREAS, the national medal of arts is conferred on only
twelve Americans each year by the president of the United
States; and

WHEREAS, Maria Benitez, a native of Taos, is co-founder of
the institute of Spanish arts and directs her own dance company,
the Maria Benitez teatro flamenco, and the international Spanish
dance workshop; and

WHEREAS, she is recognized for melding classical flamenco
with contemporary styles; and

WHEREAS, she has recently choreographed Verdi's *La Forza
Del Destino* for Placido Domingo and the New York metropolitan

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1 opera, and she is scheduled to choreograph Bizet's *Carmen* for
2 the metropolitan opera this fall for the second time; and

3 WHEREAS, she received the governor's award for excellence
4 in the field of dance, the classical dance award from the
5 institute of Puerto Rico and the golden key to the city of
6 Miami, and she has served on peer panels of the national
7 endowment for the arts and the arts division of the New Mexico
8 office of cultural affairs; and

9 WHEREAS, Maria Benitez has thrilled audiences all over the
10 world with her unique style of flamenco and impassioned
11 entertainment, and in so doing, has exposed the world to her
12 native southwestern heritage and culture;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that its congratulations, recognition and
15 commendations be expressed and conveyed to Maria Benitez upon
16 her nomination for the national medal of arts and for her
17 tireless celebration of New Mexico's heritage and cultural
18 roots; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to Maria and Cecilio Benitez and to the teatro
21 flamenco.