

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

2 **45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Patrick H. Lyons

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE ARMORY BOARD TO NAME THE ARMORY COMPLEX  
12 IN SPRINGER THE J. LESLIE DAVIS ARMORY COMPLEX AND THE ARMORY  
13 BUILDING THE MICHAEL ARELLANO ARMORY.

14  
15 WHEREAS, J. Leslie Davis, who oversaw the CS ranch for  
16 four decades died recently after a long illness stemming  
17 partly from World War II battle injuries; and

18 WHEREAS, Les was an institution in northeastern New  
19 Mexico, said novelist Max Evans, author of books set in  
20 northeastern New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, he was the son of Warren Davis, a professor of  
22 surgery at Jefferson medical school in Philadelphia, and the  
23 grandson of Charles Springer, who was the president and  
24 general counsel for the Maxwell land grant; and

25 WHEREAS, he was born October 24, 1919 and came west after  
graduating from Dartmouth college in the spring of 1941 to  
visit the family-owned ranch; and

WHEREAS, he did not intend to stay but having fallen in  
love with the ranch, spent six months working on the CS before

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1 going off to war; and

2 WHEREAS, he crossed Europe with the 4th armored division,  
3 having had a tank or two shot out from under him, and in the  
4 process received a bronze star, three purple hearts and a  
5 presidential unit citation; and

6 WHEREAS, he returned to the ranch after the war to assume  
7 management responsibilities upon the death of his uncle, Ed  
8 Springer; and

9 WHEREAS, he became general manager in 1946, expanding the  
10 ranch and building it up in numerous ways during his tenure  
11 and becoming the president of CS Cattle company in 1964; and

12 WHEREAS, he married Linda Mitchell, daughter of Albert K.  
13 Mitchell, owner of the Tequesquite ranch in eastern New  
14 Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, together, the Davises raised six children,  
16 Warren, Julia, Randy, Kirk, Bruce and Kim, all of whom  
17 returned to the ranch after college to take up their parents'  
18 livelihoods, and they and seven grandchildren remain closely  
19 involved in CS interests; and

20 WHEREAS, Les Davis was active in the community, serving  
21 on the Cimarron board of education for 18 years and was  
22 president of the New Mexico cattle grower's association and  
23 vice-president of the national cattlemen's association, a  
24 member of the board of Sunwest financial services, Sunwest  
25 bank of Raton and Sunwest bank of Albuquerque, a trustee of  
Lovelace medical foundation, a director of La Mesa race track  
in Raton, a member of the New Mexico racing commission and  
district chairman of the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, he was an artist, musician, magician, horseman,

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1 opera aficionado, businessman, sportsman, sculptor, patriot  
2 and author, but mostly a man of his family; and

3 WHEREAS, "We were a lucky family to have a father like  
4 him," his son Kirk Davis said, "Just a joy, it was."; and

5 WHEREAS, he donated several parcels of land to the  
6 Springer community, including the land the national guard  
7 armory sits on;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state armory board of the  
10 department of military affairs be requested to name the  
11 Springer armory complex in honor of J. Leslie Davis and the  
12 armory building in honor of Michael Arellano; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the state armory board.

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