

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO NAME THE UTTON TRANSBOUNDARY RESOURCES CENTER'S OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM AFTER THE JOSEPH M. STELL WATER OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Joe M. Stell has served his community and the state of New Mexico for more than seventy years as an athlete, a coach, a teacher, a mentor, a leader and an example; and

WHEREAS, Joe M. Stell has been a rancher near Carlsbad in between teaching for thirty-seven years in the Carlsbad school system, earning some degrees and continuing education credits along with expertise from the "University of Experience"; and

WHEREAS, Joe M. Stell served as state representative from district 54 for the past twenty years, where he helped revise the Election Code and contributed to issues on farming and ranching, education, public safety and water law; and

WHEREAS, he won four state championships in his coaching career and in everything he has done, he has set an example of humility, erudition and fairness and has become a real champion in the eyes of everyone who has worked with him; and

WHEREAS, water is a critical issue to all New Mexicans and yet is controversial and the source of difficult conflicts that need to be resolved; and

WHEREAS, with Representative Stell's support, and under his leadership, the university of New Mexico created the Utton transboundary resources center ombudsman program on water to foster dialogue and creative approaches to difficult problems such as water conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Utton transboundary resources center ombudsman program helps water users and other stakeholders to understand and resolve water issues; and

WHEREAS, Joe M. Stell has always emphasized and exemplified fairness, respect and a dedication to solving problems and finding solutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the board of regents of the university of New Mexico be requested to name the Utton transboundary resources center's ombudsman program as the Joe M. Stell Water Ombudsman Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the board of regents of the university of New Mexico.