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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

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| SPONSOR | <u>Jennings</u> | ORIGINAL DATE | <u>2/1/08</u> | HB | <u></u> |
| | | LAST UPDATED | <u></u> | | |
| SHORT TITLE | <u>Senator Ben D. Altamirano, In Memory</u> | SM | <u>19</u> | | |
| | | ANALYST | <u>Shaya</u> | | |

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 19 honors the memory of Senator Ben D. Altamirano for his many years of devoted service to the people of New Mexico; and that copies of this memorial are transmitted to the family of Senator Altamirano.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No Fiscal Impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

- The passing of Senator Ben D. Altamirano marks the loss of a great and devoted public servant; and
- Senator Altamirano was born on October 17, 1930 in Silver City; and
- He was married to his loving wife, Nina Melendrez, and was father to Yolanda, Ben Jr., and Paul; and
- Senator Altamirano enlisted with the United States Army in 1946 and served with the European Occupation Forces during World War II; and
- Senator Altamirano dutifully represented District 28 in the New Mexico Senate from 1971 until his passing in late 2007 and served as president pro tempore from 2005; and
- He served on numerous legislative committees and served as chair of the Senate Finance Committee for seventeen years before being elected president pro tempore, whereupon he became co-chair of the New Mexico Legislative Council; and
- During Senator Altamirano's tenure, one hundred eighty-eight members have passed through the senate chambers; and
- Senator Altamirano played an influential role in the passage of key pieces of legislation, including the ban on cockfighting bill and the minimum wage bill; and
- In describing Senator Altamirano's style, Governor Bill Richardson said, "Benny was a true statesman whose soft-spoken demeanor and love for New Mexico helped earn him

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the respect of everyone who crossed his path.", a sentiment echoed by all who knew him;
and

- Senator Altamirano was known for his big smile and quick hug; and
- Senator Altamirano was also known for his bipartisanship, having been described by Senator Mary Jane M. Garcia as "a kind of peacemaker working with both sides of the aisle";

RS/nt