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A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EMILIO NARANJO AND EXPRESSING THE  
CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE UPON HIS PASSING.

WHEREAS, Emilio Naranjo died November 13, 2008 at the  
age of ninety-two; and

WHEREAS, he was born on April 21, 1916 in Guachupangue,  
New Mexico, to Alejandrino and Delfina Naranjo and remained a  
resident of Espanola for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents; his  
brothers, Ramon, Gilberto, Daniel and Nicholas; his sister,  
Lupe; his son, Gerald Naranjo; his grandson, Benny Naranjo,  
Jr.; and his granddaughter, Judy Naranjo; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his sons, Emilio, Benny,  
Barney, Larry, Raul, Rubel, Joseph and David; his daughters,  
Lorraine Lopez, Jeanette Salazar, Susie Salazar, Beverly  
Parmer and Cecilia, Anna and Marguerite Naranjo; thirty-eight  
grandchildren; forty-one great-grandchildren; one  
great-great-grandchild; and many other loving friends and  
family members; and

WHEREAS, Emilio Naranjo served in the New Mexico senate  
for eighteen years from 1977 to 1978 and from 1980 to 1996,  
serving as vice chair of the Indian affairs and public  
affairs committees, and as a member of numerous other  
standing and interim legislative committees; and

1           WHEREAS, he served his community as county sheriff for  
2 five years, and served as a United States marshal, appointed  
3 by Lyndon B. Johnson, from 1965 to 1968; and

4           WHEREAS, he was the county manager of Rio Arriba county  
5 in 1978; and

6           WHEREAS, Emilio Naranjo started the young democrats of  
7 Rio Arriba county in 1942, and a decade later served as the  
8 chair of the Rio Arriba democratic party, a position he held  
9 for over forty years, building it into a powerful political  
10 force; and

11           WHEREAS, he was generous with his time and money and  
12 became a mentor to generations of aspiring Rio Arriba county  
13 politicians, schooling them in the political peculiarities of  
14 northern New Mexico; and

15           WHEREAS, in his last major political appearance, Emilio  
16 Naranjo, a longtime supporter of the Kennedy's, introduced  
17 United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy as a "personal  
18 friend" at a rally for presidential candidate, John Kerry;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, he became famous for his quote "Signs don't  
21 vote"; and

22           WHEREAS, he was always available to help those in need  
23 to solve their problems; and

24           WHEREAS, his influence and guidance have made a  
25 long-lasting impact on the political climate of the state;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, his contribution to the character and  
3 personality of Rio Arriba county will never be forgotten;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that heartfelt condolences be extended to  
6 the family of Emilio Naranjo, a loving and caring New  
7 Mexican; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the surviving sons and daughters of Emilio  
10 Naranjo.

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