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HOUSE MEMORIAL 44

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO PROPERLY HONOR ALFONSO "AL" OTERO FOR HIS ROLE AS ORIGINATOR AND FOUNDER OF THE PROJECT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER WITH THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF A PERMANENT WORK OF ART AT THE CENTER.

WHEREAS, Alfonso "Al" Otero honorably served the New Mexico legislature as a state representative for three terms, from 1983 to 1988; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the house of representatives, Al Otero was passionate about and worked diligently toward the creation of a national center celebrating Hispanic culture and art; and

WHEREAS, the idea for a center grew out of Al Otero's personal history, which can be traced back to 1597 when Spanish .185979.1

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1 conquistador Juan de Onate came to colonize New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, prior to the establishment of the center, much  
3 vital Hispanic historical and cultural information was stored  
4 in libraries and archives and rarely shown to the general  
5 public; and

6 WHEREAS, Al Otero had a vision for a Hispanic cultural  
7 center that would serve to promote understanding and goodwill  
8 between various ethnic cultures; and

9 WHEREAS, his dream involved establishing a venue in which  
10 to showcase Hispanic cultural contributions to the great  
11 melting pot that is the United States, and locating this  
12 cultural center in New Mexico where a rich Hispanic history has  
13 been celebrated for generations; and

14 WHEREAS, Alfonso "Al" Otero introduced House Joint  
15 Memorial 19 in 1986, during the second session of the thirty-  
16 seventh legislature, calling for the office of cultural  
17 affairs, the university of New Mexico and the city of  
18 Albuquerque to cooperate on a study of the need for a Hispanic  
19 cultural center and museum, to be located in the Barelas area  
20 of Albuquerque where he grew up; and

21 WHEREAS, this joint memorial passed, setting into motion  
22 the plans, funding and organization that, fourteen years later,  
23 would become the national Hispanic cultural center, an  
24 institution dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the  
25 culture of the Spanish-speaking world; and

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1           WHEREAS, today, the national Hispanic cultural center is a  
2 mature organization that has staged over twenty art exhibitions  
3 and four hundred programs in the visual, performing and  
4 literary arts, featuring local, national and international  
5 artists; and

6           WHEREAS, the national Hispanic cultural center is one of  
7 eight museums managed and supported by the cultural affairs  
8 department; and

9           WHEREAS, the center is a world-class institute for  
10 Hispanic arts and culture, located in the South Valley of  
11 Albuquerque; and

12           WHEREAS, it is wholly appropriate to recognize and honor  
13 Alfonso "Al" Otero, without whose vision, dedication and  
14 commitment this New Mexico treasure would not exist;

15           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural  
17 affairs department be requested to properly honor Alfonso "Al"  
18 Otero for his role as originator and founder of the project to  
19 establish the national Hispanic cultural center with the public  
20 display of a permanent work of art at the center; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs, the executive  
23 director of the national Hispanic cultural center, the  
24 secretary of state and Alfonso "Al" Otero.