

1 A MEMORIAL

2 CELEBRATING THE ADVENTUROUS LIFE OF FORMER STATE  
3 REPRESENTATIVE J. PAUL TAYLOR AND GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZING  
4 HIS DEVOTION TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO; CONGRATULATING  
5 J. PAUL TAYLOR AND HIS BIOGRAPHER, ANA PACHECO, ON THE  
6 PUBLICATION OF *J. PAUL TAYLOR, THE MAN FROM MESILLA*.

7  
8 WHEREAS, John Paul Taylor y Romero, affectionately known  
9 as "J. Paul Taylor", is a New Mexican whose continuing  
10 contributions to New Mexico have made a broad and profound  
11 impact on the state; and

12 WHEREAS, J. Paul Taylor has lived most of his life in  
13 Doña Ana county, having been born in the town of Chamberino  
14 and, since 1947, with his late wife Mary, has lived and  
15 raised their children in the town of Mesilla; and

16 WHEREAS, for eighteen years, J. Paul Taylor served as a  
17 member of the New Mexico house of representatives, from 1986  
18 until his retirement in 2004; and

19 WHEREAS, during his legislative career, J. Paul Taylor  
20 passionately advocated for social justice and the health and  
21 well-being of New Mexicans through legislation, and his  
22 biographer, Ana Pacheco, says that J. Paul Taylor was called  
23 the "conscience of the legislature"; and

24 WHEREAS, before serving as a state legislator,  
25 J. Paul Taylor made a lasting contribution to the field of

1 primary education during his thirty-four years as an educator  
2 and administrator and as associate superintendent of the  
3 Las Cruces public schools; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico state university has honored  
5 J. Paul Taylor for his significant contributions to the  
6 welfare of young people, to education and to social justice  
7 in the state by creating, among other honors, the  
8 J. Paul Taylor center for social justice; the J. Paul Taylor  
9 endowed professorship in education; and the J. Paul Taylor  
10 symposium for social justice; and

11 WHEREAS, in honor of J. Paul Taylor's significant  
12 contributions to education in the state, the J. Paul Taylor  
13 academy and related J. Paul Taylor academy foundation were  
14 founded in his name to offer a well-rounded, dual-language,  
15 project-based instructional program in smaller schools to  
16 promote academic excellence for Las Cruces area students; and

17 WHEREAS, J. Paul Taylor's contributions to juvenile  
18 justice have led to the naming of a juvenile justice center  
19 in Doña Ana county for him; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2010, the office of child development of the  
21 children, youth and families department instituted the  
22 J. Paul Taylor early childhood development fund; and

23 WHEREAS, since 1947, J. Paul Taylor and his family have  
24 lived at their beautiful and historic Barela-Reynolds  
25 homestead, now the J. Paul and Mary Taylor property, on the

1 plaza of Mesilla, New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2004, the J. Paul and Mary Taylor property  
3 was dedicated as the seventh New Mexico state monument, the  
4 Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla state monument; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2008, the J. Paul Taylor visitor's center  
6 opened in Mesilla; and

7 WHEREAS, the town of Mesilla honored J. Paul Taylor for  
8 his ninetieth birthday in 2010; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico author and journalist Ana Pacheco  
10 calls J. Paul Taylor a "fascinating man" whose life  
11 adventures and accomplishments deserve telling for posterity;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, J. Paul Taylor's ancestral New Mexico roots  
14 extend to the time of the original conquistadores in the time  
15 of Coronado, and, according to Ana Pacheco, she and  
16 J. Paul Taylor share a common ancestor, Nicolas Ortiz Niño  
17 Ladrón de Guevara, who settled in Santa Fe in the eighteenth  
18 century; and

19 WHEREAS, the museum of New Mexico press has published  
20 Ana Pacheco's biography of J. Paul Taylor, *J. Paul Taylor,*  
21 *the Man from Mesilla*, in which Ms. Pacheco describes a life  
22 that she characterizes as devoted "to education, cultural and  
23 historic preservation in the state of New Mexico"; and

24 WHEREAS, on March 1, 2013, the friends of the Taylor  
25 family monument will hold a special signing of

1 *J. Paul Taylor, the Man from Mesilla* in the New Mexico house  
2 of representatives lounge;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the adventurous life of its former  
5 colleague and revered fellow New Mexican, J. Paul Taylor, be  
6 celebrated and that his devotion to the people of New Mexico  
7 be recognized; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that J. Paul Taylor and his  
9 biographer, Ana Pacheco, be congratulated on the publication  
10 of *J. Paul Taylor, the Man from Mesilla* in which his  
11 fascinating life story is recorded for posterity; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to J. Paul Taylor, Ana Pacheco, the friends of the  
14 Taylor family monument and the J. Paul Taylor  
15 foundation.

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