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HOUSE MEMORIAL 62

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Luciano "Lucky" Varela

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAX COLL.

WHEREAS, Max Coll began his legislative career in Roswell in 1966, running as a conservative Republican, and the cover of his "All for Coll" campaign matchbooks stated "What every man should tell his wife", but inside read "Vote for Max Coll for State Representative. End Sales Tax on Doctor Bills, Dentist Bills, Hospital Costs, Nursing and Medical Costs"; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Roswell house delegation, Representative Coll advocated for lower taxes and less regulation but also sponsored bills to require a deposit on beverage bottles and cans; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Max was elected a delegate to New Mexico's last constitutional convention, chaired by former Speaker Bruce King and staffed by able legal counsel Jeff

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1 Bingaman; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1972, Max Coll was a prime sponsor of the New
3 Mexico Equal Rights Amendment, one of his proudest legislative
4 accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1974, Max left the legislature to finish law
6 school at the university of New Mexico and begin his journey
7 into northern New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, Max moved to Santa Fe in 1975, lost his crew cut
9 when he put his razor out to pasture, grew his famous curly
10 locks and added two ear studs; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1981, the political pull was too strong and
12 Max again ran for the house of representatives, representing
13 district 47, and was elected as a Republican in Santa Fe, a
14 feat unto itself; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1983, Representative Coll, being an astute
16 vote counter and realizing that the house of representatives
17 was equally divided, with thirty-five coalition votes and
18 thirty-five Democratic votes, approached Raymond Sanchez and
19 offered to switch parties and become a Democrat, thereby
20 breaking the tie; and

21 WHEREAS, Max became chair of the house taxation and
22 revenue committee and, in 1987, chair of the house
23 appropriations and finance committee, a position he held until
24 he retired in 2004; and

25 WHEREAS, during his twenty-four years of service to Santa

.192378.2

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1 Fe, the guiding principle for Max Coll was balancing fiscal
2 responsibility with protecting the environment and individual
3 rights, and he was a voice for economic justice and the
4 disadvantaged; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2003, his final signature legislative
6 achievement was passage of legislation amending the school
7 equalization formula to require funding for arts education; and

8 WHEREAS, Max has spent his retirement years running
9 rivers, feeding the birds and enjoying the bears, cougars,
10 coyotes and wild turkeys that visit the special canyon that he
11 and his wife Catherine Joyce-Coll share just outside of Santa
12 Fe; and

13 WHEREAS, one of his former colleagues brilliantly summed
14 up Max's service, stating that "He has been a force of reason,
15 of fiscal stability and integrity in our Legislature and he has
16 been a continuous source of strength, of kindness and of
17 thoughtfulness, making a difference in countless lives along
18 the way."; and

19 WHEREAS, Max Coll is a one-of-a-kind New Mexican who is
20 considered by many to be a statesman and a gentleman and who
21 served the state with distinction for thirty-two years;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
24 Max Coll for his outstanding service to the state of New
25 Mexico; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to former Representative Max Coll.

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