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HOUSE MEMORIAL 79

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Helen Garcia

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, for eighteen years, J. Paul Taylor served as a

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1 member of the New Mexico house of representatives, from 1986
2 until his retirement in 2004; and

3 WHEREAS, during his legislative career, J. Paul Taylor
4 passionately advocated for social justice and the health and
5 well-being of New Mexicans through legislation, and his
6 biographer, Ana Pacheco, says that J. Paul Taylor was called
7 the "conscience of the legislature"; and

8 WHEREAS, before serving as a state legislator, J. Paul
9 Taylor made a lasting contribution to the field of primary
10 education during his thirty-four years as an educator and
11 administrator and as associate superintendent of the Las Cruces
12 public schools; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico state university has honored J. Paul
14 Taylor for his significant contributions to the welfare of
15 young people, to education and to social justice in the state
16 by creating, among other honors, the J. Paul Taylor center for
17 social justice; the J. Paul Taylor endowed professorship in
18 education; and the J. Paul Taylor symposium for social justice;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, in honor of J. Paul Taylor's significant
21 contributions to education in the state, the J. Paul Taylor
22 academy and related J. Paul Taylor academy foundation were
23 founded in his name to offer a well-rounded, dual-language,
24 project-based instructional program in smaller schools to
25 promote academic excellence for Las Cruces area students; and

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

4 WHEREAS, in 2010, the office of child development of the
5 children, youth and families department instituted the J. Paul
6 Taylor early childhood development fund; and

7 WHEREAS, since 1947, J. Paul Taylor and his family have
8 lived at their beautiful and historic Barela-Reynolds
9 homestead, now the J. Paul and Mary Taylor property, on the
10 plaza of Mesilla, New Mexico; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico author and journalist Ana Pacheco
19 calls J. Paul Taylor a "fascinating man" whose life adventures
20 and accomplishments deserve telling for posterity; and

21 WHEREAS, J. Paul Taylor's ancestral New Mexico roots
22 extend to the time of the original conquistadores in the time
23 of Coronado, and, according to Ana Pacheco, she and J. Paul
24 Taylor share a common ancestor, Nicolas Ortiz Niño Ladrón de
25 Guevara, who settled in Santa Fe in the eighteenth century; and

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

6 WHEREAS, on March 1, 2013, the friends of the Taylor
7 family monument will hold a special signing of *J. Paul Taylor,*
8 *the Man from Mesilla* in the New Mexico house of representatives
9 lounge;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the adventurous
12 life of its former colleague and revered fellow New Mexican, J.
13 Paul Taylor, be celebrated and that his devotion to the people
14 of New Mexico be recognized; and

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

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to J. Paul Taylor, Ana Pacheco, the friends of the
21 Taylor family monument and the J. Paul Taylor foundation.