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HOUSE MEMORIAL 88

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

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DALE BALL TO THE CITY OF SANTA FE AND THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND DECLARING THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013, "DALE BALL DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Dale Ball first fell in love with Santa Fe and the surrounding area when he visited, at the urging of his wife Sylvia, in 1977, and he soon started looking for a way to relocate to this beautiful part of the world; and

WHEREAS, Dale and Sylvia moved to Santa Fe in 1981, purchased the bank of Santa Fe and managed it together for several years; and

WHEREAS, Dale served as president of the bank of Santa Fe and Sylvia served as chairman of the board; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Dale founded, and became the first executive director of, the Santa Fe conservation trust, a

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1 nonprofit land trust dedicated to serving the community of
2 greater Santa Fe by preserving open spaces, traditional
3 landscapes and trails; and

4 WHEREAS, under Dale's leadership, the Santa Fe
5 conservation trust was successful in halting private
6 development on Atalaya mountain and repairing the well-worn
7 hiking trail to the top of Atalaya, among many other projects;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, in 1996, Dale negotiated a complex land swap
10 between landowners and the city of Santa Fe that opened up
11 public access from Upper Canyon road to the trails of Picacho
12 peak, Atalaya mountain and the Santa Fe national forest; and

13 WHEREAS, the "Indefatigable Dale" and the "Indispensable
14 Sylvia", as they have been called, made many contributions to
15 the arts and social causes in Santa Fe over the years and were
16 named Santa Fe living treasures in 1999 for their lasting
17 impact on the community; and

18 WHEREAS, after retiring from the trust in 1999, Dale
19 continued to pursue his long-time vision of a system of hiking
20 and biking trails that would allow year-round public access to
21 the foothills of Santa Fe and provide a direct connection
22 between the city and the high-country trails of the national
23 forest; and

24 WHEREAS, Dale worked tirelessly, bushwhacking the land,
25 studying maps, developing his concept, negotiating agreements

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1 with Santa Fe county and the city of Santa Fe, gaining
2 easements from private property owners and obtaining access to
3 enough land to create an expansive system of foothills trails;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, through the generosity of an anonymous donor and
6 a matching contribution from the McCune charitable foundation,
7 along with votes of approval from the Santa Fe city council and
8 Santa Fe county board of county commissioners, the trail system
9 was secured; and

10 WHEREAS, Dale enlisted the help of Mike Wirtz, an
11 experienced forest service trail builder, to map the exact
12 trail locations and oversee the building of trails; and

13 WHEREAS, the first fifteen miles of the trail system
14 opened in July 2001; and

15 WHEREAS, later that year, Dale was named one of "Ten Who
16 Made a Difference" by *The Santa Fe New Mexican*; and

17 WHEREAS, the Dale Ball trails now connect with the Atalaya
18 trail and the Dorothy Stewart trail to form a thirty-mile
19 foothills trail system, and the northern section of the Dale
20 Ball trails links with the Winsor trail and, thus, to the Santa
21 Fe national forest trails leading into the Pecos wilderness;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, at the age of eighty-eight, Dale is still making
24 headlines, having recently been featured in the cover story,
25 "Trail Blazer: How Dale Ball Gave Santa Fe a Wilderness

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1 Legacy" by Mia Rose Carbone in the *Santa Fe Reporter*; and
2 WHEREAS, Dale finally retired at the age of eighty-one,
3 and he and Sylvia now live in Albuquerque;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Dale Ball be
6 recognized for his outstanding contributions to the city of
7 Santa Fe, to the state of New Mexico and to the many residents
8 of and visitors to the beautiful country that he loves; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dale Ball be recognized for
10 his talent as an articulate and masterful negotiator who has
11 been stunningly successful at turning his ideas into reality by
12 collaborating with others to achieve his visionary goals; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Thursday, March 7, 2013, be
14 declared "Dale Ball Day" in the house of representatives; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
16 transmitted to Dale Ball.