

1 HOUSE MEMORIAL 126

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Brian Egolf

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9
10 A MEMORIAL

11 HONORING FORMER HOUSE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS GILBERT LOPEZ.

12
13 WHEREAS, Gilbert Lopez, a former sergeant-at-arms for the
14 house of representatives, died in Santa Fe on February 22,
15 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, Gilbert was born in Rowe on May 23, 1939 to
17 Luciano and Arabella Lopez; and

18 WHEREAS, Gilbert attended Carlos Gilbert elementary school
19 and Harvey junior high school and graduated from Santa Fe high
20 school in 1958; and

21 WHEREAS, Gilbert proudly served his country as a United
22 States marine and during his career won a sharpshooter award,
23 received a letter of merit for an airplane crash rescue and was
24 named marine of the month twice; and

25 WHEREAS, after his military service, Gilbert returned to

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1 Santa Fe and worked for the department of transportation for
2 twenty-six years; and

3 WHEREAS, Gilbert met his wife, Rose, at a dance, literally
4 sweeping her off her feet with his fancy footwork, and it was
5 on the dance floor that Rose fell in love with Gilbert; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1991, Gilbert began his next career with the
7 state legislature, serving first as assistant and, in 2005, as
8 sergeant-at-arms for the house of representatives until his
9 retirement at the end of the 2014 legislative session; and

10 WHEREAS, Gilbert was in constant attendance while the
11 house of representatives was in session and enforced the order
12 on the floor of the house, as well as in the lobbies,
13 galleries, passages and rooms connected to the house floor; and

14 WHEREAS, as sergeant-at-arms, Gilbert ensured that only
15 people who had permission were allowed on the house floor and
16 he was responsible for the preparation of bill packages for the
17 house of representatives; and

18 WHEREAS, Gilbert loved clothes and looking "spiffy", and
19 was, as acknowledged by legislators on his retirement, one of
20 the best-dressed men at the capitol; and

21 WHEREAS, the honor of the legislature and the traditions
22 of lawmaking were held in the highest regard by Gilbert, who
23 made sure the protocols of the legislative process were adhered
24 to on his watch; and

25 WHEREAS, Gilbert was proud to have been a co-founder of

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1 the friendship club of Santa Fe, a support group for those
2 struggling with addictions, where Gilbert was passionate and
3 compassionate in helping others to overcome their challenges;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Gilbert knew no strangers, cared deeply for
6 people and was always willing and generous to others in need;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, although fondly remembered for his kindness and
9 humility, Gilbert's most lasting legacy will be of his
10 professionalism and dedication to his position as sergeant-at-
11 arms in the house of representatives and the responsibility it
12 bestowed upon him; and

13 WHEREAS, Gilbert is survived by his wife of fifty-six
14 years, Rose Lopez; his son, Steve Lopez; his daughter, Loana
15 Sandoval, and her husband, Eric Sandoval; his granddaughters,
16 Desiree Martinez and Kristina Lopez; his great-granddaughters,
17 Estrella Espinosa and Savannah Ortiz; his brother, Raymond
18 Lopez, and his wife, Rosina; his sister, Linda Lury, and her
19 husband, Charles; his brother-in-law, Richard Lopez, and his
20 wife, Anita; his sisters-in-law, Emily Romero, and her husband,
21 Willie, Dolores Barela and Rosie Lopez; as well as many special
22 relatives and friends; and

23 WHEREAS, Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents,
24 Luciano and Arabella Lopez; his brother, Celestino Lopez; a
25 very special aunt, Onorata "Tita" Gonzales; his nephew, Rudy

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1 Lopez; his parents-in-law, Fidel and Carolina Lopez; and his
2 best friend, Horace Manzanares;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Gilbert Lopez
5 be remembered for his warm and caring nature and for his
6 professionalism and dedication to the position of sergeant-at-
7 arms of the house of representatives; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
9 transmitted to Rose Lopez.