

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Michael S. Sanchez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 HONORING MIKE RUNNELS AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE
12 TO NEW MEXICO.

13
14 WHEREAS, Mike Runnels, who served as New Mexico's
15 lieutenant governor in the early 1980s and as a former district
16 attorney, died in February 2015 at the age of sixty-nine; and

17 WHEREAS, Mike grew up in Lovington, New Mexico, coming
18 from a family with a long political history; Mike's father,
19 Harold "Mud" Runnels, served as a state senator for twelve
20 years before being elected to five terms as a United States
21 congressman from the second district until his death in 1980;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mike moved to Santa Fe in the 1970s and was
24 elected to the Santa Fe city council in 1976 for a four-year
25 term and worked as the director for common cause New Mexico;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, after Mike graduated from law school at the
3 university of Texas, he was elected the New Mexico's lieutenant
4 governor on the same ticket with Governor Toney Anaya; and

5 WHEREAS, Mike was instrumental in bringing the national
6 main street program to New Mexico, persuading his colleagues in
7 the legislature to establish this program and convincing
8 Governor Anaya to allow him to sign the bill; and

9 WHEREAS, to carry on his father's work, Mike ran two
10 separate campaigns for his late father's congressional seat,
11 and although they were unsuccessful, congress' loss was the
12 thirteenth judicial district's gain, as he was elected district
13 attorney and served two four-year terms from 1992 to 2000; and

14 WHEREAS, Mike often expressed his enjoyment of public
15 service, telling a reporter that "politics is often a pain, but
16 having the chance to do something good in the public arena is
17 real satisfying"; and

18 WHEREAS, colleagues have described Mike as a dedicated
19 public servant and remarked on his astute political mind, his
20 wide-ranging interests, his collection of historical and
21 political memorabilia and his keen intellect; and

22 WHEREAS, Mike, a voracious reader, never lost his interest
23 in state or national politics, daily reading at least five
24 national newspapers, and he was never reluctant to participate
25 in any political discussion, always making his position very

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1 clear; and

2 WHEREAS, former Governor Anaya noted that Mike's parting
3 was "way too soon" and that it should make everyone reflect on
4 how fragile life is; and

5 WHEREAS, Mike is survived by his ninety-two-year old
6 mother, Dorothy Runnels; his sons, Joshua Runnels and Sean
7 Runnels; his brothers, Phillip Runnels and Matthew Runnels; and
8 his sister, Eydie Runnels;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Mike Runnels be recognized and
11 remembered for his outstanding service to the state; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to members of the Runnels family.