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A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 14, 2017 "RUDOLFO ANAYA SUMMER READING PROGRAM DAY" IN THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya is a distinguished New Mexico author and widely celebrated educator; and

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya is best known for his internationally acclaimed novel *Bless Me, Ultima*; and

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya is the recipient of the national medal of arts, the national humanities medal, the American book award and other accolades; and

WHEREAS, from humble beginnings in the village of Pastura in Guadalupe county, Rudolfo Anaya has used his life's work to share New Mexico's rich culture with the world, bringing great pride and respect to the state; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Rudolfo Anaya's work in higher education, he has also championed numerous efforts to increase reading by New Mexico's children; and

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya truly believes that "leer es poder", meaning "reading is power", and his efforts have brought critical attention to reading as the foundation of learning, which is essential to the growth and success of all children and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya believes that New Mexico children should be familiar with the folklore and traditions of their

1 state's cultures, such as cuentos, dichos, plays, songs and
2 Native American stories; and

3 WHEREAS, stories by and about New Mexico encourage a
4 strong self-identity and help preserve unique New Mexican
5 languages; and

6 WHEREAS, reading is the most important skill a child
7 will ever learn, as reading is the gateway to higher
8 education and career success; and

9 WHEREAS, children need the support of caring adults to
10 encourage them to read and to keep reading, particularly
11 during the summer months to retain and strengthen these
12 important skills; and

13 WHEREAS, a reading program was conceived to inspire
14 children to read more, and a partnership was formed between
15 Rudolfo Anaya and the Christopher Montalvo memorial fund; and

16 WHEREAS, the Rudolfo Anaya summer reading program was
17 launched in April 2016 through local schools, and by the end
18 of summer, forty-three students from four counties had
19 participated and were recognized for their reading efforts;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the Rudolfo Anaya summer reading program
22 encourages New Mexico children's curiosity and love of
23 learning and inspires them to become the best readers in the
24 world; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2017, the goal of the Rudolfo Anaya summer

1 reading program is to increase the program's partnerships and
2 to reach more children in more New Mexico schools;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 14, 2017 be declared
5 "Rudolfo Anaya Summer Reading Program Day" in the
6 legislature; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico children be
8 encouraged to read and keep reading; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the Rudolfo Anaya summer reading program.

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