

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REMEMBERING WILLIAM MURRAY RYAN AND HONORING HIS OUTSTANDING
3 SERVICE TO GRANT COUNTY AND NEW MEXICO.

4
5 WHEREAS, William Murray Ryan, long-time New Mexico
6 representative, passed away on January 7, 2017 in Silver
7 City; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Ryan was the grandson of W.D.
9 Murray, a New Mexico Republican who briefly served in both
10 the New Mexico house of representatives and the New Mexico
11 senate; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Ryan, a native of Grant county,
13 was born on July 22, 1922 in Central, New Mexico, grew up in
14 Silver City and graduated from St. Mary's academy, followed
15 by two years at New Mexico state teacher's college, now known
16 as western New Mexico university, before receiving an
17 appointment to the United States military academy at West
18 Point by United States Senator Dennis Chavez; and

19 WHEREAS, shortly after graduating from West Point,
20 Murray married his sweetheart, Marion Buchella, before being
21 stationed in Germany until 1948, and then finally finishing
22 his military service in the state of Washington in 1949; and

23 WHEREAS, upon moving home to Silver City, Representative
24 Ryan combined several business careers, including ownership
25 of a Studebaker dealership, a wholesale liquor

1 distributorship and employment at Kennecott copper
2 corporation, with having five children with Marion and never
3 forgetting what was really important: his wife, his family
4 and his community; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Ryan first entered politics as a
6 school board member in Silver City, and in 1968, despite the
7 fact that a Republican from that district had not been
8 elected to the New Mexico house of representatives in fifty
9 years, Murray took up the challenge, campaigning incessantly
10 in the mining district and winning the seat; and

11 WHEREAS, Murray began his long and illustrious career in
12 1969, serving district 38, covering Grant, Luna and Sierra
13 counties for fifteen two-year terms, and he was the longest-
14 serving house Republican at the time of his resignation in
15 1998; and

16 WHEREAS, during his first term, Representative Ryan was
17 named to the house taxation and revenue committee, on which
18 he served until he retired; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1973, Representative Ryan became the state
20 chairman of the Republican party, and although he was a
21 conservative, he declined to support the conservative
22 coalition because he did not believe that coalitions make for
23 good government, and then he demonstrated his independence
24 and his consistent principles by also refusing any offers of
25 chairmanships or vice chairmanships when the "loyalist"

1 Democrats returned to power; and

2 WHEREAS, during his legislative tenure, Representative
3 Ryan secured funding for many community projects, including
4 the acquisition of emergency medical surgical equipment, a
5 senior center in San Lorenzo, a visitors' center in Silver
6 City and community services, particularly those services
7 helping children and disabled adults; and

8 WHEREAS, Murray was a staunch supporter of western New
9 Mexico university, spearheading funding for nursing and
10 occupational therapy programs and renovations to Watts hall,
11 the fine arts center theater and Miller library; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Ryan was also an active member
13 of many local organizations, including the St. Francis Newman
14 center, Silver City rotary, American legion, elks lodge and
15 Grant county farm bureau; and

16 WHEREAS, in recognition of all his contributions,
17 western New Mexico university bestowed upon Representative
18 Ryan in 1998 an honorary degree of doctor of human letters,
19 and Silver City honored him by dedicating the city's
20 visitors' center in his name; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Ryan is often remembered by his
22 colleagues as a rare individual and a true gentleman who was
23 always interested in the opinions of others, whether he
24 agreed with them or not; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Ryan had a long and enduring

1 love for Grant county and devoted his life to the people of
2 southwestern New Mexico, whether it was serving as a little
3 league coach for youngsters from all parts of Silver City or
4 responding with a smile to anyone who called him for help; he
5 could truly be called "Mr. Grant County";

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that
8 Representative William Murray Ryan be remembered and honored
9 for his significant public service contributions to New
10 Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the family of William Murray Ryan – his sons
13 Murray and Kerry and his daughters Kathleen and Robin – and
14 to his friend Janet Sherman.