

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING REPRESENTATIVE NICK L. SALAZAR AND RECOGNIZING HIS
3 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP TO NEW MEXICO.

4
5 WHEREAS, after forty-six years as a state representative
6 for district 40, Nick L. Salazar is retiring at the end of
7 2018; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was first elected to the
9 house of representatives in 1972 in a district that covers
10 parts of Colfax, Mora, Rio Arriba and San Miguel counties;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar is New Mexico's longest-
13 serving legislator and is among the ten longest-serving
14 members of any legislature in the country; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar is a recognizable
16 figure, wearing a fresh carnation in his lapel during every
17 legislative session day for the last forty-six years – truly
18 a dapper and genteel gentleman; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was born April 18, 1924
20 in the small town of Chamita, one mile west of the Pueblo of
21 San Juan in New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school,
23 Representative Salazar enlisted in the United States air
24 force; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar attended the university

1 of New Mexico and the university of California-Santa Barbara;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar began his political
4 career as a commissioner for Rio Arriba county; and

5 WHEREAS, in June 1967, during his tenure as a county
6 commissioner, Representative Salazar was held hostage for a
7 few hours by Reies Lopez Tijerina in the infamous Rio Arriba
8 county courthouse raid in Tierra Amarilla; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar retired from Los Alamos
10 national laboratory, where he had a career as a fusion and
11 thermonuclear researcher, and he remains active as a member
12 of the Los Alamos national laboratory board; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar also farms and ranches;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was the chair of the
16 house rules and order of business committee from 1999 to 2014
17 and in 2017 and a member in 2016; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar has been a member of the
19 house agriculture and water resources committee from 2017 to
20 2018 and the house appropriations and finance committee from
21 1977 to 1978, 1983 to 1984 and 1986 to 2018; and

22 WHEREAS, during his tenure, Representative Salazar also
23 served on the house consumer and public affairs committee;
24 the house energy and natural resources committee; the house
25 health and government affairs committee; the house health,

1 government and Indian affairs committee; and numerous other
2 standing committees; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar also served on many
4 interim committees as a member and chair, where his many
5 years on the Indian affairs committee allowed him to travel
6 and visit with tribal communities and become an even stronger
7 advocate for Native Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, when Representative Salazar was first elected,
9 he discovered that seniors did not have a champion helping
10 them; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar then began to spearhead
12 a process to set aside funds each year in the budget to build
13 up support services for New Mexico's seniors, and he has been
14 a strong advocate for senior citizen programs and is proud to
15 have championed this cause; and

16 WHEREAS, Native American issues have been at the
17 forefront of Representative Salazar's support from the
18 beginning of his legislative tenure; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar has been a staunch
20 supporter of education throughout his career, supporting
21 funding to advance all of New Mexico's colleges and
22 universities; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar's support for education
24 has been most evident in his unfailing, long-term support for
25 northern New Mexico college, formerly northern New Mexico

1 community college, ensuring adequate funding for the programs
2 and its facilities in both Espanola, New Mexico, and its main
3 constitutional campus in El Rito, New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, telecommunications, technology research and
5 universal health care are other issues embraced by
6 Representative Salazar; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar and his wife, Maria Ana
8 Abeyta, have three children: Yvonne, Earl and Gregory; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar's children are dismayed
10 that their strict father has turned into such a "marshmallow"
11 with his three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, with his retirement, Representative Salazar
14 will end a proud and illustrious career as a public servant;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that
17 Representative Nick L. Salazar be honored and lauded for his
18 many years of public service and dedication to the residents
19 of New Mexico, for the causes he championed, for the lives he
20 affected and for the many people he touched; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to Representative Nick L. Salazar. _____