

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
13 longest-serving legislator and is among the ten
14 longest-serving members of any legislature in the country;
15 and

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar attended the university
2 of New Mexico and the university of California-Santa Barbara;
3 and

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

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar has been a member of the
20 house agriculture and water resources committee from 2017 to
21 2018 and the house appropriations and finance committee from
22 1977 to 1978, 1983 to 1984 and 1986 to 2018; and

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

1 health and government affairs committee; the house health,
2 government and Indian affairs committee; and numerous other
3 standing committees; and

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar's support for education
25 has been most evident in his unfailing, long-term support for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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