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HOUSE MEMORIAL 71

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia A. Lundstrom and Brian Egolf and Debbie A. Rodella  
and Carl Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO NAME A  
PORTION OF NEW MEXICO STATE HIGHWAY 50 NEAR PECOS, NEW MEXICO,  
AFTER REPRESENTATIVE LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA.

WHEREAS, requests for the designation or dedication by  
name of any department of transportation interchange or highway  
are submitted to the state transportation commission for  
approval; and

WHEREAS, a requested designation by name is intended as a  
memorial to an event, a person or persons of historical  
significance or is intended as an honor to a person of national  
esteem; and

WHEREAS, Luciano "Lucky" Varela was born in Pecos, New  
Mexico, on February 17, 1935 to Catalina and Celestino Varela;  
and

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1           WHEREAS, Lucky was raised in Pecos, graduated from Pecos  
2 high school, was enrolled at the university of New Mexico and,  
3 in 1957, joined the United States army; and

4           WHEREAS, following his military service, Lucky graduated  
5 from the college of Santa Fe with a degree in accounting and  
6 then earned a law degree from La Salle university; and

7           WHEREAS, Lucky gave many decades of service to the state  
8 and retired from the department of finance and administration  
9 in 1986; and

10           WHEREAS, in 1987, Lucky was elected to represent house  
11 district forty-eight in the house of representatives; and

12           WHEREAS, Representative Varela's dedicated advocacy and  
13 expertise in finance and budget matters earned him the greatest  
14 respect from his colleagues on the legislative finance  
15 committee, which he chaired for many years, and from the  
16 legislature as a whole; and

17           WHEREAS, Representative Varela retired in 2016 after a  
18 thirty-year-long career in the legislature; and

19           WHEREAS, Representative Varela died on September 7, 2017;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, Representative Varela is held in national esteem  
22 for his illustrious career in public service; and

23           WHEREAS, a fitting honor to recognize Representative  
24 Luciano "Lucky" Varela for his many decades of public service  
25 would be to have a portion of New Mexico highway 50, near his

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1 birthplace of Pecos, New Mexico, named after him;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state  
4 transportation commission be requested to name a portion of New  
5 Mexico highway 50, near Pecos, New Mexico, after Representative  
6 Luciano "Lucky" Varela; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the secretary of transportation and each state  
9 transportation commissioner.