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HOUSE MEMORIAL 87

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

INTRODUCED BY

Brian Egolf and Georgene Louis

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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1 genteel gentleman; and

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

5 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Representative
6 Salazar enlisted in the United States air force; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar attended the university of
8 New Mexico and the university of California-Santa Barbara; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar retired from Los Alamos
16 national laboratory, where he had a career as a fusion and
17 thermonuclear researcher, and he remains active as a member of
18 the Los Alamos national laboratory board; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar also farms and ranches;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was the chair of the house
22 rules and order of business committee from 1999 to 2014 and in
23 2017 and a member in 2016; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar has been a member of the
25 house agriculture and water resources committee from 2017 to

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1 2018 and the house appropriations and finance committee from
2 1977 to 1978, 1983 to 1984 and 1986 to 2018; and

3 WHEREAS, during his tenure, Representative Salazar also
4 served on the house consumer and public affairs committee; the
5 house energy and natural resources committee; the house health
6 and government affairs committee; the house health, government
7 and Indian affairs committee; and numerous other standing
8 committees; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar also served on many
10 interim committees as a member and chair, where his many years
11 on the Indian affairs committee allowed him to travel and visit
12 with tribal communities and become an even stronger advocate
13 for Native Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, when Representative Salazar was first elected, he
15 discovered that seniors did not have a champion helping them;
16 and

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

22 WHEREAS, Native American issues have been at the forefront
23 of Representative Salazar's support from the beginning of his
24 legislative tenure; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar has been a staunch

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1 supporter of education throughout his career, supporting
2 funding to advance all of New Mexico's colleges and
3 universities; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar's support for education
5 has been most evident in his unfailing, long-term support for
6 northern New Mexico college, formerly northern New Mexico
7 community college, ensuring adequate funding for the programs
8 and its facilities in both Espanola, New Mexico, and its main
9 constitutional campus in El Rito, New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, telecommunications, technology research and
11 universal health care are other issues embraced by
12 Representative Salazar; and

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

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

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

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

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

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