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HOUSE MEMORIAL 36

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Brian Egolf and Joy Garratt and Deborah A. Armstrong and  
Patricia Roybal Caballero and Marian Matthews

A MEMORIAL

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" PRATT AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Pratt, who served as a Democratic  
state representative for district 27 as a freshman legislator  
in 2019, died in Albuquerque on December 25, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Representative Pratt served one year of a two-  
year term; and

WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was born in 1935 in Camden,  
New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was educated in New Jersey  
public schools and earned a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan  
university and a medical degree from Jefferson medical college  
in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was a retired orthopedic

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1 surgeon and professor of medicine at the university of New  
2 Mexico school of medicine; and

3 WHEREAS, during his medical career, Representative Pratt  
4 was an orthopedic surgeon at the Gallup Indian medical center,  
5 the Alaska Native medical center and Raymond G. Murphy  
6 department of veterans affairs medical center; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt began his term in the state  
8 house of representatives after winning a close election in the  
9 northeast heights district; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt served on the following  
11 standing committees: enrolling and engrossing; health and  
12 human services; and local government, land grants and cultural  
13 affairs; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt also served on the interim  
15 courts, corrections and justice and legislative health and  
16 human services committees; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt had a long history of  
18 advocacy and leadership on the health security for New Mexicans  
19 campaign; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was passionate about  
21 providing comprehensive statewide health care, becoming the  
22 leader of the physicians for the Health Security Act group and  
23 subsequently serving on the campaign's executive committee  
24 until he was elected a state representative; and

25 WHEREAS, during Representative Pratt's first legislative

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1 session, he was instrumental in ensuring that funding would be  
2 available for hiring consultants to conduct the fiscal analysis  
3 of the Health Security Act, and his legacy will live on in the  
4 fight to secure comprehensive health care; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt also sponsored a bill that  
6 would have made it easier for independents to run for office by  
7 reducing the number of signatures required to file for  
8 candidacy; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt's death was mourned by his  
10 colleagues on both sides of the political aisle; and

11 WHEREAS, Speaker of the House of Representatives Brian  
12 Egolf stated that Representative Pratt had shown himself as a  
13 man of integrity and character and noted that his presence in  
14 the legislature would be sorely missed; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Deborah A. Armstrong praised  
16 Representative Pratt for his strong advocacy of public health  
17 and for co-sponsoring legislation for improvements to the Dee  
18 Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act; and

19 WHEREAS, House Minority Floor Leader James G. Townsend  
20 described Representative Pratt as an exceptional leader whose  
21 collegial character and passion for his constituents will be  
22 missed at the state capitol; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt will be remembered for his  
24 optimism, his calm nature and his commitment to always "do the  
25 right thing" for the people of New Mexico; and

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1           WHEREAS, Representative Pratt is survived by his wife of  
2 forty-two years, Sally R. Pratt; his daughters, Amy Pratt  
3 Candelaria and husband, Danny, and Julie Pratt Mudlo and  
4 husband, John; his granddaughter, Katie Blankenship and  
5 husband, John; his stepsons, Alan S. Cota and wife, Julie, and  
6 Terry M. Cota and wife, Rhonda; and his siblings, Robert Pratt  
7 and wife, Alix, and Marjorie Pratt Fink and husband, Robert;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that William "Bill"  
10 Pratt be honored and recognized for his public service and  
11 dedication to the residents of New Mexico and his strong  
12 advocacy for public health; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to Sally R. Pratt.

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