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SENATE MEMORIAL 58

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

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

A MEMORIAL

HONORING SALVADOR "SAL" GONZALEZ AND HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHEREAS, Salvador "Sal" Gonzalez, a resident of Anthony, New Mexico, died on November 2, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Sal was the son of Enrique and Consuelo Gonzalez; and

WHEREAS, Sal had quite an impressive high school athletic record at Gadsden High School in Anthony; and

WHEREAS, Sal was named a 1955 high school all-American in football, and his four-year record of scoring and rushing yardage was submitted to the national high school athletic federation as a national record; and

WHEREAS, as a high school fullback, Sal was named to the south all-state football team for three years, was a leading vote getter for the south team and was named captain of the

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1 south all-star team in his senior year; and

2 WHEREAS, in addition to his football accomplishments, Sal  
3 played on the Gadsden high school baseball team, a team that  
4 won three state championships; and

5 WHEREAS, Sal said he learned to play football and baseball  
6 as a youngster by taking part in sandlot games behind the  
7 Baptist church in Anthony; and

8 WHEREAS, Sal always gave credit to his high school coach  
9 George DiTierro for the skills Sal developed in football and  
10 baseball; and

11 WHEREAS, Sal rejected a chance to sign a big league  
12 baseball contract with the Washington senators on the advice of  
13 his father, who wanted him to get a college education; and

14 WHEREAS, Sal enrolled at the university of Arizona in  
15 Tucson, Arizona, on a football and baseball scholarship; and

16 WHEREAS, Sal was a pleasant surprise to Arizona coach  
17 Warren Woodson, when Sal made his debut as a freshman tailback  
18 and amazed his coach with his ability; and

19 WHEREAS, Sal also played on the wildcat baseball team as a  
20 third baseman; and

21 WHEREAS, Sal transferred to New Mexico state university  
22 after his sophomore year when coach Warren Woodson was hired as  
23 head football coach for the aggies; and

24 WHEREAS, at New Mexico state university, Sal played in two  
25 victorious sun bowl championships and also played baseball with

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1 the aggies and was named team captain; and

2 WHEREAS, following his graduation from New Mexico state  
3 university, Sal coached at several high schools, including  
4 Laguna-Acoma, Santa Rosa, Los Lunas and Gadsden, where he took  
5 many of those teams to state championship finals in baseball  
6 and football; and

7 WHEREAS, Sal's career included that of a teacher, coach,  
8 athletic director and administrator; and

9 WHEREAS, Sal produced some outstanding athletes during his  
10 coaching career; and

11 WHEREAS, after his retirement from high school coaching,  
12 Sal served as an interim baseball coach at New Mexico state  
13 university and assisted in rebuilding the football program at  
14 New Mexico highlands university; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1985, Sal was recognized and inducted into the  
16 Las Cruces hall of fame along with other aggie athletes; and

17 WHEREAS, Sal was also recognized in 2018 for his  
18 leadership as a Dona Ana county commissioner from 1983 to 1986;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Sal was a man of strength, character and  
21 integrity, who had the uncanny ability to bring out the best in  
22 people he encountered; and

23 WHEREAS, Sal was an inspiration to his athletes and, as a  
24 result, many went on to teaching and coaching careers, careers  
25 in government and community services and other professional

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1 fields; and

2 WHEREAS, Sal is survived by his wife, Betty; his  
3 daughters, Teresa and Kathy; his grandchildren, Ava and Alex;  
4 and his brothers, Enrique Gonzalez and Ramon Gonzalez;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
6 OF NEW MEXICO that Salvador "Sal" Gonzalez be honored for a  
7 life well-lived and for his many accomplishments; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to Sal's wife, Betty Gonzalez.