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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996

INTRODUCED BY

MANNY M ARAGON

A JOINT MEMORIAL

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD J. LOPEZ, MAJORITY LEADER OF THE NEW MEXICO STATE SENATE.

WHEREAS, we are occasionally called to reflect upon the lives of individuals who have passed before us and whose lives touched ours; and

WHEREAS, the sudden death of Senator Edward J. Lopez, majority leader of the senate, is one such occasion; and

WHEREAS, Edward J. Lopez began his legislative career in the house of representatives, serving ten years as a member of the Santa Fe delegation; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Senator Lopez was appointed and subsequently elected to the New Mexico state senate, a position he held until the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Senator Lopez was chosen by his

Underscored material = new
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1 colleagues to be majority floor leader of the senate, a position
2 well-served by the senator's calm demeanor, fairness, quick wit
3 and knowledge of legislative process; and

4 WHEREAS, no one knew as much about state taxation and
5 finance as Senator Lopez; he possessed a knowledge and expertise
6 that cannot be replaced and will be sorely missed in the senate,
7 in the legislature and in the state; and

8 WHEREAS, Eddie, or "Cowboy" as many of us called him, was a
9 true gentleman, with a quiet politeness, a dry wit, fierce
10 loyalty and compassion and graciousness under pressure--
11 qualities that his friends and adversaries alike admired and
12 appreciated; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Lopez was a master of the legislative
14 process-- a man of action, not of talk; a man of few words, but a
15 man of his word; a man who held power, but wielded it
16 gracefully; and

17 WHEREAS, after over twenty years of service in the
18 legislature, Senator Lopez remained loyal to the people of Santa
19 Fe and New Mexico who could not afford housing or could not
20 afford to finance small community projects on their own; and

21 WHEREAS, despite the demands of public office and the glare
22 of public scrutiny, Senator Lopez always remained a gentleman,
23 and he chose to continue his valuable contributions to a society
24 that long ago forgot the personal sacrifices that one makes in
25 the name of public service; and

Underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, Senator Lopez set a standard of quiet dignity and
2 public service that will long be remembered in the state
3 capitol;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the remainder of the forty-second
6 legislature, second session, be dedicated to the memory of
7 Edward J. Lopez, majority leader of the New Mexico state senate;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the memory of Senator Lopez not
10 fade and that all legislators and all New Mexicans remember the
11 importance and the sacrifices of public service and the
12 knowledgeable, quiet graciousness with which that service was
13 epitomized by Edward J. Lopez; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to members of Senator Lopez' family and friends.