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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR MANNY M. ARAGON,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, a half-century ago, on March 22, 1947, Charlotte Aragon gave birth to Mel Aragon's son, Manny M. Aragon, who would become president pro tempore of the New Mexico senate; and

WHEREAS, Manny M. Aragon spent his youth playing football, basketball and baseball, and was named an all-state athlete several years in a row; and

WHEREAS, in a prophetic turn of events, Manny's first car had no reverse gear, and would only go forward at full speed, foreshadowing his stamina, his boundless energy and his approach to life; and

WHEREAS, Manny M. Aragon began his political career as a delegate to the 1968 Democratic convention, the tumultuous tone

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1 of which, many friends and foes would argue, set the tone for
2 the rest of his political career; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1975, Senator Aragon, a freshman legislator
4 from Albuquerque's south valley, passed the very first bill he
5 introduced, which required employers to reinstate employees,
6 with pay, if their appeal to the personnel board was successful;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Aragon showed his compassion, caring and
9 courage by spending a cold February night in 1980 at the
10 penitentiary of New Mexico during the infamous prison riot,
11 comforting and assisting survivors; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1982, a young, cavalier, "atroz" Manny M
13 Aragon was honored, along with several of his friends, with a
14 personal police escort from the Plaza Hotel when Albuquerque's
15 finest abruptly ended a game of "liar's poker", whereupon Manny
16 remarked, "This is Bull!"; and

17 WHEREAS, now, fifteen years later, a more circumspect,
18 thoughtful, politically correct, soft-spoken Manny M Aragon
19 chooses his words more carefully and is more likely to impart
20 pearls of wisdom such as, "Just what you need at a prison
21 command post--a waffle iron!"; and

22 WHEREAS, it is fitting that Manny comes from a neighborhood
23 known as "Tortilla Flats", since the Steinbeck novel of that
24 name tells a modern-day tale of King Arthur and his knights, and
25 the president pro tempore of the senate is building his own

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1 modern-day castle in that neighborhood, and will live there one
2 day, if he can ever get the place finished; and

3 WHEREAS, Manny M. Aragon, serving his tenth year as senate
4 president pro tempore, is uniformly recognized by the citizens
5 and by the legislators of the state as the leading advocate for
6 the poor, minorities, working class, women and children and
7 others who are underrepresented in the state, or overlooked
8 completely; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Aragon's priorities as a public officer
10 have remained true to his earliest political philosophy, and his
11 priorities are evident in the legislation he sponsors every
12 year, which this year includes an appropriation to weatherize
13 the homes of low-income New Mexicans, comprehensive legislation
14 to relieve prison overcrowding and a memorial seeking the
15 release of Tibetan political prisoners, who are only seeking
16 religious and political freedom;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
18 OF NEW MEXICO AND ALSO UNCLE HARRY that they wish Senator Manny
19 M. Aragon a very happy fiftieth birthday, and wish his family,
20 including his mother, Charlotte, and his children, Greg and
21 Angela, an enjoyable family celebration of that event; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate of the state of New
23 Mexico thank Senator Aragon for his years of dedicated public
24 service, and acknowledge his many accomplishments achieved
25 through his infamously energetic motivation.