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HOUSE MEMORIAL 94

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

W. Ken Martinez

A MEMORIAL

THANKING REPRESENTATIVE HENRY KIKI SAAVEDRA FOR HIS DEDICATION TO NEW MEXICO THROUGH HIS LONG YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND WISHING HIM WELL IN HIS FINAL RETIREMENT; DECLARING FEBRUARY 17, 2014 AS "KIKI DAY IN THE HOUSE".

WHEREAS, Representative Henry Kiki Saavedra came to the thirty-third legislature, in 1977, as the representative for house district 10, which at that time included the southern portion of Bernalillo county and a small part of Valencia county; and

WHEREAS, his interests were in improving job opportunities and providing adequate social services, including services for the elderly and disabled, to his constituents in his district; and

WHEREAS, he has continued to work on these issues, along

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1 with improving the criminal justice system by ensuring that the
2 courts, prosecutors and public defenders have adequate
3 resources; and

4 WHEREAS, perhaps most importantly, Kiki has been
5 instrumental in building consensus across the aisle in the
6 crafting of many, many general appropriation acts; and

7 WHEREAS, Kiki has spent almost half his life in the New
8 Mexico house of representatives, serving both his district
9 constituents and the residents of the state; and

10 WHEREAS, Kiki came into the legislature during the time of
11 the legendary Mama Lucy's and he learned how to be a legislator
12 under the expert tutelage of Speaker Walter K. Martinez and
13 knew our Speaker Martinez as a youngster; and

14 WHEREAS, during his long legislative career,
15 Representative Saavedra has served on some iteration of most of
16 the standing committees and many of the interim committees that
17 have been created or sustained over his legislative lifetime,
18 most notably serving on the legislative finance committee since
19 1983 and on the house appropriations and finance committee
20 since 1989; and

21 WHEREAS, Kiki has served with distinction in the South
22 Valley caucus, and has earned the esteemed title of "Chairman
23 Emeritus" or perhaps more properly, "Presidente Emérito"; and

24 WHEREAS, when he announced that he would not seek
25 reelection in 2014, the *Albuquerque Journal* wrote an editorial

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1 in praise of his "almost four decades of bipartisan pragmatism
2 that put the state in front of party ideologies and pork
3 fests"; and

4 WHEREAS, the editorial went on to praise him as "someone
5 who has brought bottom-line honesty to the complex world of
6 state budgeting" and quoted Speaker of the House W. Ken
7 Martinez as saying that he always points to Representative
8 Saavedra as a model legislator; and

9 WHEREAS, lest this memorial get too serious, it is
10 important to remind the body that Kiki has always been counted
11 on to lighten the mood in this chamber or in committee; and

12 WHEREAS, only four members of this house have been here
13 long enough to remember when, in 1988, the Honorable Henry Kiki
14 Saavedra was honored by a memorial that "declared him to be
15 HOUSE JESTER for now and forever"; and

16 WHEREAS, the then-speaker appointed a committee to solicit
17 funds to purchase proper attire, with bells, for the Honorable
18 House Jester, but one wonders if it was ever able to get enough
19 money to buy said attire; and

20 WHEREAS, by the way, what happened to that money?; and

21 WHEREAS, if said attire was purchased, why hasn't the
22 Honorable House Jester worn it at least once each session since
23 then, if only to remind new members of his elevated status in
24 the house of representatives. (And is house jester part of the
25 house leadership? Is that position higher or lower than caucus

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1 chair or parliamentarian?); and

2 WHEREAS, House Memorial 92 of the thirty-eighth
3 legislature, second session, began by noting that Kiki was one
4 of the handsomest members of that illustrious body, and, it
5 should be noted, that still holds true today in this
6 illustrious body;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge
9 and honor Representative Henry Kiki Saavedra for his dedication
10 to New Mexico through his long years of service in the house of
11 representatives by declaring February 17, 2014 as "Kiki Day in
12 the House"; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on this, perhaps Kiki's last
14 retirement, after much-earlier retiring from a career with the
15 Albuquerque parks and recreation department, we foresee many
16 pleasant days during future Decembers, Januarys, Februarys and
17 odd-numbered Marches spent with his family, especially his six
18 grandchildren, to whom he is devoted; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this house request that he
20 come back occasionally to visit and lighten our mood; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the speaker affirm that there
22 are no negative votes on this memorial, because many of us know
23 that Representative Saavedra is opposed to memorials and he
24 might vote against it if there were a roll call; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members stand and give a

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1 heartfelt ovation to the man every member of this house has
2 known as long as they've been here – except Representative Nick
3 Salazar, who beat him here by a mere four years; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the Honorable Henry Kiki Saavedra with the
6 gratitude and good wishes of all of the members of the house.

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