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HOUSE MEMORIAL 93

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Chasey

A MEMORIAL

REMEMBERING PATRICK FRANCIS TYRRELL AND HONORING HIS
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO SOCIAL WORKERS AND NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Patrick Francis Tyrrell, a social worker,
educator and activist, was a leader of the effort to enact the
state's Social Work Practice Act and was a tireless advocate on
many fronts, including repeal of the death penalty, the rights
of Native Americans and children and behavioral health care for
all New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was a graduate of his beloved university
of Notre Dame and received a master of social work degree from
Loyola university and master's degrees in education and public
administration from the university of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was married to his wife, Maiya, for
thirty-seven years; and

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1 WHEREAS, Patrick was a fifth grade teacher at Saint Joseph
2 school, an elementary school in Winslow, Arizona, and then a
3 social worker in Shiprock, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Patrick was also the director of the Los Alamos
5 council on alcoholism, where he established new programs to
6 address problems of chemically dependent high school students
7 in Los Alamos county; and

8 WHEREAS, Patrick also developed and delivered a community-
9 based substance abuse program, which received the prestigious
10 governor's award for exemplary substance abuse prevention
11 programming; and

12 WHEREAS, Patrick was appointed executive director of the
13 national association of social workers, New Mexico chapter, in
14 March 1987, and he held that position until his retirement in
15 December 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2003, Patrick was a part of major unemployment
17 reform efforts, and in 2004 and 2005, Patrick helped to
18 organize campaigns that significantly reduced cuts to medicaid;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Patrick collaborated with health action New
21 Mexico to pass the landmark Patient Protection Act,
22 guaranteeing managed care consumers a bill of rights; and

23 WHEREAS, along with the New Mexico human needs
24 coordinating council, Patrick advocated successfully for the
25 establishment of a public housing trust fund; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2009, Patrick played a significant leadership
2 role with the New Mexico coalition to repeal the death penalty,
3 resulting in the end of capital punishment in New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, Patrick served on many boards of nonprofit
5 organizations, including the New Mexico human needs
6 coordinating council, health action New Mexico, the New Mexico
7 alcohol program directors association, the New Mexico coalition
8 to repeal the death penalty and the southwest behavioral health
9 independent practice association; and

10 WHEREAS, in April 2017, Patrick received a lifetime
11 achievement certificate of appreciation for his commitment,
12 dedication and loyalty for his nineteen years of service on the
13 board of directors at la familia-namaste; and

14 WHEREAS, throughout the years, Patrick developed close
15 working relationships with New Mexico legislators from both
16 sides of the aisle to educate them on social work issues and
17 their impact on New Mexicans and to help draft legislation to
18 remedy those issues; and

19 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, there are now social workers in
20 the house of representatives and in the senate who have
21 benefited from Patrick's mentorship and encouragement to take
22 advocacy to the next level; and

23 WHEREAS, Patrick was a pillar in the social work community
24 and was greatly respected as a leader and an invaluable
25 resource to his colleagues and students and to legislators; and

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