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HOUSE MEMORIAL 105  
**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**  
INTRODUCED BY  
Brian Egolf and Carl Trujillo and Jim R. Trujillo  
and Debbie A. Rodella

A MEMORIAL  
HONORING STEPHEN R. ARIAS AND RECOGNIZING HIS VALUABLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
THE STATE.

WHEREAS, Stephen Arias' tenure as the chief clerk of the  
New Mexico house of representatives is remembered fondly by  
many legislators and staff who worked beside him; and

WHEREAS, an interest in politics came naturally to  
Stephen, whose father, Ray, was a prominent figure in  
political, business and fraternal organizations; and

WHEREAS, Stephen was a graduate of St. Michael's high  
school and attended north Texas state university and the  
university of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Stephen's legislative experience began in 1966  
at the New Mexico house of representatives when the state

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1 capitol was located in the Bataan memorial building, located  
2 across Don Gaspar avenue from the current state capitol; and

3 WHEREAS, Stephen started out as a page and his early  
4 assignments included reading clerk, pay clerk and purchasing  
5 director, as well as checking hats and coats in the cloak room  
6 for three hours every day; and

7 WHEREAS, Stephen later advanced to the position of  
8 assistant chief clerk; and

9 WHEREAS, the house chief clerk worked only during the  
10 legislative session, much like a session employee, and it was  
11 not until 1994 that the chief clerk position became year-round  
12 employment; and

13 WHEREAS, from 1983 to 1989, Stephen served as executive  
14 assistant and district director for United States Congressman  
15 Bill Richardson; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1982, at age thirty-seven and as a seventeen-  
17 year veteran of the house of representatives, Stephen was  
18 elected by the Democratic house majority as chief clerk to  
19 succeed Al Romero; and

20 WHEREAS, Stephen administered and operated the business of  
21 the house of representatives by following advice given to him  
22 by the previous chief clerk to "treat every legislator the same  
23 regardless of whether they are a freshman or the most veteran  
24 committee chair"; and

25 WHEREAS, as chief clerk, Stephen was in charge of the

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1 entire house of representatives' budget, hiring and training  
2 staff, tracking legislation, directing communication among the  
3 house, senate and governor's office and issuing checks,  
4 including to lawmakers in the house of representatives; and

5 WHEREAS, Stephen also brought the house of representatives  
6 into the modern age, transitioning from IBM typewriters to  
7 computers; and

8 WHEREAS, Stephen's job duties also included the  
9 responsibility for approximately two hundred seventy session  
10 employees for the house of representatives and the provision of  
11 constituent liaison services; and

12 WHEREAS, Stephen retired as chief clerk of the house of  
13 representatives in 2014 after forty-five years of service; and

14 WHEREAS, Stephen served thirty-two years as the longest-  
15 elected chief clerk in New Mexico and, at the time of his  
16 retirement, was the third-longest serving legislative clerk in  
17 the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, Stephen has been a member of the American society  
19 of legislative clerks and secretaries since 1983 and served as  
20 the chair of most of the society's committees, including three  
21 terms on the international communication and development  
22 committee, three terms on the executive committee and ten years  
23 on the Mason's manual revision commission, which updated the  
24 *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure*; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1994, after the North American Free Trade

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1 Agreement was signed, Stephen received permission to invite and  
2 host legislative clerks from the border states of Mexico, with  
3 the chief clerks of Texas, Arizona and California as  
4 presenters; and

5 WHEREAS, as a result of the meeting, the *asociacion*  
6 *nacional de oficiales mayores de los congresos de los estados y*  
7 *distrito federal* was established with Stephen as one of the  
8 founding members, and Stephen currently serves as an honorary  
9 board member; and

10 WHEREAS, Stephen was the recipient of the 2012 national  
11 conference of state legislatures legislative staff achievement  
12 award presented to the individual from each staff professional  
13 association who has demonstrated excellence in supporting the  
14 work of a state legislature and strengthening the legislative  
15 institution; and

16 WHEREAS, Steven was born in Santa Fe to the late Irene and  
17 Ray Arias; and

18 WHEREAS, Stephen is married to Victoria Arias; and

19 WHEREAS, Stephen has two sisters, Adrienne Arias and her  
20 husband, Peter Heitzeberg, and Alexis and her husband, Max  
21 Byfuglin; and

22 WHEREAS, Stephen has two sons, Stephen Ray Arias II and  
23 his wife, Carla, and Santiago and his partner, Amilya; and a  
24 daughter, Kimberly Gabaldon and her husband, Miguel Gabaldon,  
25 Jr.; and

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