

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 12

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
12 TRANSPORTATION AND THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY,  
13 MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY AND  
14 RECOMMEND A PUBLIC LOCATION TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE AND WORK OF  
15 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE ANDRES "DRE"  
16 ARELLANES.

17  
18 WHEREAS, Andres Arellanes, who died in 2023 at the age of  
19 thirty-six, was a proud native New Mexican who fought bravely  
20 and tirelessly as a social justice advocate for civil rights  
21 and police reform and against the unlawful use of force by law  
22 enforcement; and

23 WHEREAS, in July of 2010, Andres Arellanes settled a civil  
24 rights lawsuit with the city of Albuquerque over an incident  
25 that occurred in 2007 in which he was confronted on the street

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1       in downtown Albuquerque by a group of city and state law  
2       enforcement officers and was tasered at least six and up to  
3       eighteen times and then charged with assault against law  
4       enforcement officers. Those charges were eventually dismissed  
5       after an official independent review determined that officers  
6       involved in the incident lied to a grand jury; and

7               WHEREAS, after that incident, Arellanes and his family  
8       worked tirelessly as advocates against unlawful police violence  
9       and for reform of use-of-force policies by law enforcement,  
10       leading to significant reforms in those policies not only in  
11       Albuquerque, but also at the state and national levels; and

12               WHEREAS, the efforts of Andres Arellanes and his family to  
13       secure justice in his case, along with other similar efforts  
14       that followed, caused the United States department of justice  
15       to investigate the use of force by the Albuquerque police  
16       department, which eventually led that agency to investigate law  
17       enforcement use-of-force standards and procedures nationwide,  
18       and helped lead to reforms on the local, state and national  
19       levels, particularly as those standards apply to taser use of  
20       force; and

21               WHEREAS, in 2021, following widespread public attention  
22       focused on the issue of police violence and use of force by law  
23       enforcement and a movement that was sparked by the advocacy and  
24       social justice work of Andres Arellanes and other victims of  
25       unlawful police violence, the United Nations issued new

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1 guidelines and procedures for use of force and firearms by  
2 United Nations police, and those standards have had a  
3 significant impact on law enforcement policies worldwide; and

4 WHEREAS, the advocacy and social justice work of Arellanes  
5 and his family over many years took courage to accomplish, has  
6 led to substantial changes to the use-of-force policies in  
7 local, national and international police departments and has  
8 likely helped save countless lives across the United States and  
9 around the world;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the general services department, the  
12 department of transportation and the energy, minerals and  
13 natural resources departments each be requested to identify and  
14 recommend to the legislative finance committee a location, such  
15 as a state park, campground, roadway, landscaped area in front  
16 of a state building or other appropriate location, to  
17 commemorate the life and work of Andres "Dre" Arellanes; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the legislative finance committee, the general  
20 services department, the department of transportation and the  
21 energy, minerals and natural resources department.