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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Ben D. Altamirano

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF  
FRED MCCAFFREY, A POLITICAL LEGEND.

WHEREAS, Fred McCaffrey, a political columnist, campaign  
strategist, radio commentator and prominent figure in New  
Mexico politics, died at the age of eighty in Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCaffrey was Pete Domenici's media  
strategist for the 1966 Albuquerque city commission race, and  
when Pete Domenici was elected to the United States senate in  
1972, McCaffrey accompanied him to Washington, D.C., as a staff  
member; and

WHEREAS, Senator Domenici said, "Fred was an incredible  
person. He had a knack for getting to the core of an issue and  
making it understandable to the public. I am truly saddened by  
his death. I'm going to miss him."; and

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1           WHEREAS, Mr. McCaffrey's careers included working as a  
2 television assistant production manager and cartoon artist in  
3 Albuquerque, working as press officer for the late Senator  
4 Joseph M Montoya's first re-election campaign in 1970, editing  
5 a Catholic newspaper, serving as a public information director  
6 for the state highway and transportation department, teaching  
7 at St. Louis and Fordham universities, running an advertising  
8 agency and publishing a monthly newsletter for lobbyists and  
9 politicians; and

10           WHEREAS, in later years, he and his wife, Jan, moved to  
11 the island of Montserrat, where, after he aired some of his  
12 views in a local newspaper, he was promptly asked to leave; and

13           WHEREAS, he returned to New Mexico and hosted an hour-long  
14 show on KRSN radio in Los Alamos titled "Politics and Other  
15 Animals"; and

16           WHEREAS, his *Inside the Capitol*, a syndicated column about  
17 New Mexico's political scene, was read statewide for over ten  
18 years until he retired in 1987; and

19           WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish said, "I've  
20 always thought about him as the conscience of political people.  
21 He always encouraged me to do the right thing and stand by my  
22 guns. "; and

23           WHEREAS, veteran journalist Ernie Mills said that  
24 McCaffrey "was always very much his own man" and that "his  
25 institutional memory was just unbeatable. He knew the stories.

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1 He never forgot them "; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. McCaffrey was named a 2000 living treasure of  
3 Santa Fe and Mary Lou Cook, the living treasure organization  
4 founder, said he "is perhaps as well-known around New Mexico as  
5 any governor, and undoubtedly has more friends" and lauded him  
6 for "his independent take, passion for the truth and sense of  
7 humor"; and

8 WHEREAS, Fabian Chavez said, "He excelled at the  
9 journalist's credo, 'Comfort the afflicted and afflict the  
10 comfortable' .";

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
12 OF NEW MEXICO that condolences be expressed at the passing of  
13 Fred McCaffrey, a political legend, and that he be recognized  
14 for his many achievements and his contributions to the state of  
15 New Mexico; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to his wife, Jan Lynch.