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SENATE MEMORIAL 17

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  
HAROLD JOSEPH "DOC" WEILER.

WHEREAS, Harold Joseph "Doc" Weiler, one of the state's  
best-known and longest-working lobbyists, died at the age of  
eighty-six; and

WHEREAS, Doc Weiler was born in Burlington, Wisconsin,  
earned a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's college in Minnesota  
and received a law degree from Marquette university in  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, he served as a United States navy pilot in World  
War II and returned to Burlington to practice law for sixteen  
years; and

WHEREAS, he moved to New Mexico in 1960 and became  
executive director of the association for commerce and

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1 industry, where he remained for seventeen years; and

2 WHEREAS, Doc then began working as a lobbyist and was  
3 registered as the lobbyist for Phelps Dodge and Ruidoso Downs;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, at the capitol, he was described as possessing a  
6 voice that a Shakespearean actor or radio evangelist would  
7 covet; and

8 WHEREAS, Doc helped get the personal property tax on  
9 inventory held for retail repealed, crusaded for worker's  
10 compensation reform, helped to defeat mandatory collective  
11 bargaining for public employees, and helped to pass the In-  
12 Plant Training Act, the Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act, the  
13 industrial revenue bond acts, seat belt legislation and  
14 unemployment compensation reform; and

15 WHEREAS, of the role of the lobbyist, Doc said, "I think  
16 we serve an extremely useful purpose as a resource", and,  
17 regarding his personal approach, observed, "What I attempt to  
18 do and always have done is to express good, concrete reasons  
19 why a bill should be adopted or amended or killed based on  
20 information"; and

21 WHEREAS, Ernie Mills, Albuquerque journalist, said, "He  
22 represented all the good things we look at in a lobbyist:  
23 honesty, integrity and credibility"; and

24 WHEREAS, he was known as Santa Fe's great legislative  
25 compromiser and saw bills as people instead of as legal

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1 writing, believing legislation was alive because it affected  
2 lives;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
4 OF NEW MEXICO that condolences be expressed on the passing of  
5 Harold Joseph "Doc" Weiler, one of the state's best-known  
6 lobbyists, and that Doc be recognized for his many years of  
7 service to the state of New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to Doc's wife, Lena Weiler.

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