

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING MARY GAVIN FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin moved to New Mexico in 1951 with her late  
husband, Edward Gavin; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin and her family spearheaded the effort to stop the  
remarkable fossils discovered in New Mexico from leaving the state; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin lobbied the legislature for four years to construct  
and fund a state museum where all the fossils could be stored and displayed to the  
public; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the legislature approved by a single vote the  
construction of the museum of natural history, which is the most visited museum in  
the state; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin served as a board member of the museum from its  
inception until 1993, when her contribution to the museum was recognized by  
Governor Bruce King, who named her as the state's first-ever trustee emerita; and

WHEREAS, a university of New Mexico professor named a fossil,  
*Euconodoma gavinensis*, after Mary Gavin for her unceasing years of work to  
establish the museum of natural history; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin has been active in national and international  
museum societies and has brought a major museum convention to New Mexico;  
and

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin was honored for her contributions to the state,  
joining a select group when she was named a Santa Fe "Living Treasure"; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin won an award as New Mexico's woman of the year;  
and

WHEREAS, Mary Gavin has written a book about her years on the Pecos river ranch; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Gavin was an active pilot and captain of the women's polo team in college; and

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WHEREAS, Mary's friends describe her as elegant, strong, magical, indomitable, one of New Mexico's gems and a living testimony to staying alive as long as you live;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Mary Gavin be recognized for her outstanding accomplishments and her contributions to New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to Mary Gavin.