

1 A MEMORIAL

2 LAUDING THE LIFE OF OSCAR ACOSTA AND EXPRESSING THE
3 CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE ON HIS UNTIMELY DEATH.

4
5 WHEREAS, Oscar Acosta was born March 21, 1957 in
6 Portales and grew up in Elida, graduating from Elida high
7 school; and

8 WHEREAS, Oscar was the proud son of Juan and Concha
9 Acosta, who came to the United States from Mexico in the
10 1950s as part of a federal program that solicited workers to
11 build railroads; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1978, at Lubbock Christian college, Oscar
13 was named an all-American pitcher by the national association
14 of intercollegiate athletics; and

15 WHEREAS, he played minor league baseball for three years
16 with the Philadelphia Phillies and one year in the Mexican
17 league before a torn rotator cuff ended his pitching career;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, he began his professional coaching career in
20 1988 in the minor leagues, working for the Texas Rangers and
21 the New York Yankees organizations and the Columbus Clippers
22 of the international league, and he moved to the major league
23 as a pitching coach for the Chicago Cubs in 2000 and 2001 and
24 for the Texas Rangers in 2002; and

25 WHEREAS, while with the Chicago Cubs, he helped to turn

1 around one of the national league's worst pitching staffs and
2 in 2001, his pitchers set a major league record with one
3 thousand three hundred four strikeouts; and

4 WHEREAS, he rejoined the Yankee's organization in 2004
5 as manager of its Gulf Coast League team where his skills
6 netted the team league championships in 2004 and 2005 and
7 earned him the title "Manager of the Year" in 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, he and Humberto Trejo were tragically killed in
9 an automobile accident on April 19, 2006 while they were on a
10 scouting trip to the Dominican Republic; and

11 WHEREAS, Oscar Acosta was a tough, intense coach who
12 taught his pitchers mental toughness and how to be mentally
13 prepared for the game; and

14 WHEREAS, while Oscar loved baseball and the young men he
15 coached, his greatest love was his family; and

16 WHEREAS, Oscar Acosta was a man molded by the hard life
17 of rural poverty, steeped in the values of Old Mexico and the
18 eastern plains of New Mexico, and he held dear the lessons he
19 learned from his parents and his community about the value of
20 persistence and hard work and the importance of respect and
21 love of family;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico's native son, Oscar
24 Acosta, be recognized for his many accomplishments; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that heartfelt condolences be

1 extended to the family and friends of Oscar Acosta; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
3 transmitted to his wife, Kathy, and his children, Melissa,
4 Amanda and Ryan. _____

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