

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 46

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 HONORING UNITED STATES SENATOR PETE DOMENICI OF NEW MEXICO.

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13 WHEREAS, Senator Pete Domenici was born on May 7, 1932 in
14 Albuquerque, the only son of five children born to Italian
15 immigrants; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Domenici graduated from St. Mary's High
17 School in 1950 and received his law degree from the University
18 of Denver in 1958; and

19 WHEREAS, he married Nancy Burk in 1958, with whom he has
20 eight children and many loving grandchildren; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Domenici was elected to the United States
22 Senate in 1972, becoming the first Republican elected to the
23 Senate from New Mexico in thirty-eight years; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator Domenici is the longest-serving United
25 States senator in New Mexico history and upon his retirement

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1 from the Senate in 2008, he will become the first senator in
2 New Mexico history to serve six full terms; and

3 WHEREAS, he is a ranking member and former chair of the
4 Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and a member
5 of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Budget
6 Committee, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the
7 Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Domenici sponsored the Energy Policy Act
10 of 2005, a landmark bill that diversifies America's energy
11 supply, and bipartisan legislation such as the Balanced Budget
12 Act of 1997, and he is credited with developing many of the
13 rules currently used by the Senate; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Domenici was known for his ability to
15 negotiate on both sides of the aisle and to fight for issues
16 important to New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, he sponsored a resolution designating one week a
18 year as "National Character Counts Week" as a way for schools
19 and after-school programs to develop strong character in
20 students; and

21 WHEREAS, he is an advocate for individuals with mental
22 health conditions, sponsoring the Mental Health Parity Act of
23 1996, and spending two years negotiating with lawmakers and
24 insurance companies to ensure fair insurance coverage under the
25 Mental Health Parity Act of 2007; and

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