

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING MARCH 5, 2009 "ST. MICHAEL'S HIGH SCHOOL 150TH
3 ANNIVERSARY DAY" AT THE SENATE AND COMMEMORATING THE HISTORY
4 AND TRADITION OF ST. MICHAEL'S HIGH SCHOOL'S ONE HUNDRED
5 FIFTY YEARS IN THE CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.

6
7 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1859, New Mexico Archbishop
8 Lamy requested that the Christian Brothers from France come
9 to Santa Fe to open a school for boys; and

10 WHEREAS, Brothers Hilarien, Gondulph, Geramius and
11 Galmier Joseph arrived in the early afternoon of October 27
12 and set to work opening a school on Old Santa Fe trail in an
13 adobe hut next to the San Miguel mission just two weeks
14 later; and

15 WHEREAS, the first boarding students arrived on
16 November 9 and classes began on November 22, 1859; and

17 WHEREAS, eleven years later, amidst difficult financial
18 times, Brother Botulph Schneider arrived in Santa Fe to
19 motivate and direct the Christian Brothers and the students;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, his joy and enthusiasm inspired his
22 co-laborers, and they began to raise money for upgrading and
23 developing St. Michael's High School; and

24 WHEREAS, during his thirty-six-year tenure as director
25 of the school, new structures were erected and the school's

1 academic reputation grew; and

2 WHEREAS, two of those structures that remain are the
3 present-day Lamy building and the present-day Lew Wallace
4 building; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1876, St. Michael's conferred diplomas upon
6 its first graduates; and

7 WHEREAS, the territorial constitutional convention met
8 in the Lew Wallace building to draft the constitution of New
9 Mexico in 1910, and one-fourth of the convention delegates
10 were alumni of St. Michael's; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1926, a fire destroyed the tower and upper
12 story of the school; and

13 WHEREAS, the damage was so extensive and estimated
14 repairs so costly that St. Michael's faced closure; and

15 WHEREAS, the school's director, Brother August, was
16 walking downtown and contemplating the fate of the school,
17 when he encountered Miguel Chavez, an alumnus and successful
18 businessman; and

19 WHEREAS, Miguel Chavez, upon hearing of the school's
20 difficulties, decided to finance the rebuilding of St.
21 Michael's; and

22 WHEREAS, the St. Michael's community continued to grow
23 over the next five decades, and by the 1960s, it had outgrown
24 its location on Old Santa Fe trail; and

25 WHEREAS, St. Michael's moved to its current Siringo road

1 location in 1967; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1968, the school became coeducational after
3 the closing of Loretto academy; and

4 WHEREAS, in the 1990s, science laboratories and new
5 classrooms were added to St. Michael's and the Tipton sports
6 center was completed; and

7 WHEREAS, a new building was added in the 2000s, and
8 improvements were made to classrooms, offices and athletic
9 fields; and

10 WHEREAS, a statue of St. John Baptist de la Salle was
11 recently installed at the school's front entrance; and

12 WHEREAS, St. John Baptist de la Salle founded the
13 institute of the brothers of the Christian schools, the
14 Christian Brothers, in 1680 in Rheims, France; and

15 WHEREAS, the son of wealth and privilege, de la Salle
16 joined the priesthood and became committed to educating the
17 children of poor and working-class people; and

18 WHEREAS, over time, he trained and organized a group of
19 men to live in community and conduct the school; and

20 WHEREAS, the core principles of a Lasallian school are:

- 21 A. faith in the presence of God;
- 22 B. respect for all persons;
- 23 C. quality education;
- 24 D. concern for the poor and social justice; and
- 25 E. a united community where diversity is

1 respected; and

2 WHEREAS, St. Michael's high school, with a college
3 preparatory curriculum, has, as its mission, to educate every
4 student in a spirit of faith and academic excellence
5 according to Roman Catholic principles in the Lasallian
6 tradition of the Christian Brothers; and

7 WHEREAS, the school's anniversary celebration begins
8 today, with the reading of this memorial; and

9 WHEREAS, April 30, 2009 will be dedicated to the
10 founders of St. Michael's high school, with Archbishop
11 Sheehan presiding over a celebration and mass and with a
12 dinner reception to follow; and

13 WHEREAS, the celebration will continue with a sports
14 achievement event that honors St. Michael's high school's
15 long-running and successful athletic program; and

16 WHEREAS, all of Santa Fe will be invited to "Community
17 Day" on September 27, 2009, celebrating St. Michael's one
18 hundred fiftieth anniversary in conjunction with San Miguel
19 fiesta and featuring tours, games and visual and performing
20 arts; and

21 WHEREAS, an all-class reunion and gala will take place
22 the weekend of October 9 through 11, 2009; and

23 WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 11, 2009, a mass at the St.
24 Francis cathedral basilica will be held to honor the one
25 hundred fiftieth anniversary celebration;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 5, 2009 be declared "St.
3 Michael's High School 150th Anniversary Day" at the senate
4 and that congratulations be extended to St. Michael's high
5 school's Christian Brothers, students, alumni, staff and
6 faculty, past and present, and that gratitude be expressed to
7 Lasallian Brothers throughout the world for their commitment
8 to educate all; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the Christian Brothers, the St. Michael's high
11 school board of trustees, the archdiocese of Santa Fe, the
12 mayor and city council of the city of Santa Fe and the county
13 commissioners of Santa Fe.

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