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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 62
49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY
Rhonda S. King

A JOINT MEMORIAL
RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LIFE AND MANY LASTING
CONTRIBUTIONS OF BRUCE KING TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Bruce King, the beloved former governor, was born on April 6, 1924 to Mollie S. and William S. King near Stanley, New Mexico, and died on Friday, November 13, 2009, at the age of eighty-five; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Stanley high school and attended the university of New Mexico where he played Lobo football; and

WHEREAS, he served his country in the United States army in field artillery during World War II; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home, he met and later married his lifelong partner, Alice Marie Martin, on June 1, 1947 at the Baptist church in Moriarty, New Mexico; and

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1 WHEREAS, after mustering out of the army in 1946, Bruce
2 and his brothers began their ranching legacy, working with
3 their parents to build the W.S. King and sons ranch which
4 ultimately became the King brothers ranch; and

5 WHEREAS, on the ranch, Bruce handled the cattle, his older
6 brother, Sam, took care of the farming, and his younger
7 brother, Don, ran the trucking operations; and

8 WHEREAS, before becoming governor, Bruce served in several
9 significant political positions, including as a Santa Fe county
10 commissioner, as a member of the house of representatives and,
11 for three terms, as speaker of the house of representatives, a
12 position he always considered one of his favorites; and

13 WHEREAS, following his service in the legislature, he was
14 elected to the state's second constitutional convention and was
15 chosen to serve as the president of the convention; and

16 WHEREAS, Bruce often mentioned that as a youngster he was
17 inspired by Governor Clyde Tingley, who visited his school in
18 Stanley, to consider a career in politics, and as an adult he
19 was persuaded by his wife, Alice, and his brothers to run for
20 governor; and

21 WHEREAS, after his first successful run for governor, in
22 1970, Bruce King served three non-consecutive terms from 1971
23 to 1974, from 1979 to 1982 and from 1991 to 1994, making him
24 the state's longest-serving governor, who guided New Mexico
25 through the better part of four decades; and

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1 WHEREAS, his leadership and style as governor will be
2 unequaled for a long time to come, and he will be remembered
3 especially for his cowboy straightforwardness and his
4 approachability; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor King was the catalyst for policy reforms
6 that endure to this day, including the creation of cabinet
7 departments dedicated to protecting children and the
8 environment, the enactment of legislation equalizing school
9 funding and the professionalism of state government's core work
10 force; and

11 WHEREAS, Bruce viewed holding public office, whether on
12 the Santa Fe county commission, in the New Mexico house of
13 representatives or in the office of the governor, as a public
14 service; and

15 WHEREAS, Bruce, who was one of only a handful of New
16 Mexico political leaders known to all simply by his first name,
17 exemplified the qualities of honesty, loyalty and sincerity;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, his philosophy was to lift up people and give
20 everyone an opportunity, leading government down the middle
21 path, mediating differences and bringing people together; and

22 WHEREAS, Bruce was the truest example of a public servant
23 who reached out to all New Mexicans, and he believed his top
24 priority was simply to do what was right regardless of the
25 personal and political consequences; and

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1 WHEREAS, Bruce contributed his papers and writings to the
2 university of New Mexico school of law library, which now
3 houses the archived collection that reflects the significant
4 accomplishments not only of Governor King but also of his wife,
5 Alice; and

6 WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton, a friend of Bruce King
7 for thirty years, stated that "he was truly one of a kind. He
8 was a great governor and a wonderful man who used his homespun
9 manner to demonstrate, and sometimes to hide, a razor-sharp
10 mind and an amazing wit. Bruce was my generation's Will
11 Rogers"; and

12 WHEREAS, Bruce King's legacy may be best expressed in his
13 own words, uttered in 1998, when he said, "Out on the ranch,
14 when you get things moving in the right direction, that's when
15 the work really starts. I've found government is pretty much
16 the same. As much as we have accomplished, there is plenty to
17 be done and there are lots of ways to get it done. The best
18 time is always now.";

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the life and many lasting
21 contributions of Bruce King to the state of New Mexico be
22 recognized and honored; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sincere condolences be
24 expressed to the family of Bruce King; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to his brothers, Sam King and his wife, Che Sun
2 Kim, and Don King and his wife, Dorothy; his sister, Leota
3 Brooks and her husband, Jack; his sons, Bill King and Gary King
4 and his wife, Yolanda; and his grandchildren, Becky and Tom
5 Spindle, Jenny and Josh Caldes, Stacy King and Eric and Cameron
6 Anderson; and to the archived collection of Bruce King papers
7 in the university of New Mexico school of law library.

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