

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 47

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING THE LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF GOVERNOR BRUCE KING.

12
13 WHEREAS, Bruce King's steady, "mighty fine" leadership as
14 speaker of the house of representatives and New Mexico's
15 longest-serving governor guided the state through parts of four
16 decades; and

17 WHEREAS, Governor King was the catalyst for policy reforms
18 that endure to this day, including the creation of cabinet
19 departments dedicated to protecting children and the
20 environment, enactment of legislation equalizing school funding
21 and the professionalism of state government's core work force;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Governor King's honesty, loyalty, sincerity and
24 yeoman work ethic, whether in state government or on the ranch,
25 personified New Mexico and its residents; and

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1 WHEREAS, the governor's gregarious manner, fondness for
2 draping an arm over the shoulder of anyone within his reach and
3 legendary malapropisms delivered with his customary high-
4 pitched twang served as constant reminders that Bruce King was
5 simply and always just one of us, equally comfortable
6 discussing public policy at El Comedor de Anaya's, advising new
7 governors like Bill Clinton, talking cattle prices at his
8 Stanley home or shaking hands with children during one of his
9 frequent visits to a school; and

10 WHEREAS, Bruce, who was one of only a handful of New
11 Mexico political leaders known to all simply by his first name,
12 died on November 13, 2009, at the age of eighty-five years; and

13 WHEREAS, Governor King's wife and life partner, Alice,
14 died less than a year before him, separating a previously
15 inseparable couple that faithfully shared political, business
16 and personal decision-making; and

17 WHEREAS, Bruce King viewed holding public office, whether
18 on the Santa Fe County commission, in the New Mexico house of
19 representatives or in the office of the governor, as a public
20 service and would probably be more than a little embarrassed by
21 the commotion surrounding his passing; and

22 WHEREAS, Governor King is survived by his brothers, Don
23 and Sam, with whom he built King Brothers ranches; his son,
24 Bill, who followed him into ranching, and his son, Gary, who
25 followed him into public service; and by a legacy that will

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1 endure as long as Bruce's beloved New Mexico;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature recognize the lasting
4 contributions that Governor Bruce King made to the state of New
5 Mexico and express its sorrow upon his passing; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the memorial be
7 transmitted to Governor King's sons, Bill and Gary, and to El
8 Comedor de Anaya's.

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