

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEN
3 LUJAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND WISHING
4 HIM GODSPEED UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NEW MEXICO
5 LEGISLATURE.

6
7 WHEREAS, Ben Lujan began his service in the house of
8 representatives in 1975, before even the most senior member
9 of the senate was elected to the upper house; and

10 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan was elected by his caucus to be
11 majority whip in 1983 and majority floor leader in 1999,
12 before being elected speaker of the house of representatives
13 in 2001; and

14 WHEREAS, during his long service in the New Mexico
15 legislature, Speaker Lujan served as a member of more than
16 half a dozen standing committees and more than two dozen
17 interim committees and subcommittees and successfully
18 sponsored countless pieces of legislation, including measures
19 to increase the minimum wage, to protect homeowners from
20 being forced from their homes by rising property taxes and to
21 spur the economy with business incentives, worker training
22 programs and funding for public works projects; and

23 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan's decision to retire from the
24 New Mexico house of representatives at the end of his current
25 term will leave a remarkable gap in leadership and mark the

1 end of a particularly workmanlike era in that body and in the
2 New Mexico legislature; and

3 WHEREAS, at the same time, the speaker's decision to not
4 seek reelection brings a glimmer of hope to those senators
5 who sponsored legislation that Speaker Lujan believed
6 deserved thorough scrutiny in numerous house committees; and

7 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan's determination, advocacy on
8 behalf of his constituents and the causes in which he
9 believed and loyalty to the legislative institution will be
10 greatly missed;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that eternal gratitude be expressed to
13 Speaker Ben Lujan for his dedication and service to the people
14 of the state of New Mexico and that he be wished Godspeed upon
15 his retirement from the house of representatives. _____

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