

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL J. SHEEHAN FOR HIS SERVICE TO
3 NEW MEXICO AND OFFERING CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS RETIREMENT.

4
5 WHEREAS, Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan was installed as
6 the eleventh archbishop of Santa Fe on September 21, 1993;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, during his tenure as the lead archdiocesan
9 shepherd, he rebuilt the archdiocese during a tumultuous
10 period and created a safe environment for all of his
11 parishioners; and

12 WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan continues to strengthen New
13 Mexico's four hundred years of faith with his extensive
14 theological knowledge and deep fervor; and

15 WHEREAS, the archbishop is a highly acclaimed spiritual
16 leader and prolific writer, noted for his energy and
17 willingness to meet with parishioners and state leaders
18 throughout the diocese; and

19 WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan will submit his resignation
20 to Pope Francis on the archbishop's seventy-fifth birthday,
21 July 9, 2014, per canon law, which requires diocesan bishops
22 to submit their resignation to the pope on reaching age
23 seventy-five; and

24 WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan was born in Wichita, Kansas,
25 on July 9, 1939 and was raised in Texarkana, Texas; and

1 WHEREAS, the archbishop studied for the priesthood at
2 St. John's seminary and Assumption seminary in San Antonio,
3 Texas and completed his priestly formation at the North
4 American college in Rome, Italy; and

5 WHEREAS, he did his theological studies at the Gregorian
6 university, where he received his licentiate in sacred
7 theology degree in 1965. In 1968, he returned to Rome for
8 studies in canon law and received his doctorate from the
9 Pontifical Lateran university in Rome in 1971; and

10 WHEREAS, the archbishop served several churches in the
11 Dallas-Fort Worth area before being named monsignor of the
12 diocese of Lubbock, Texas in 1983; and

13 WHEREAS, since his installation as archbishop of
14 Santa Fe in 1993, Archbishop Sheehan has served as a strong
15 moral compass for his parishioners and is held in high esteem
16 throughout New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, Archbishop Sheehan gives tirelessly of his
18 time, serving on numerous boards and committees benefitting
19 his church and his community; and

20 WHEREAS, the citizens of New Mexico are grateful for
21 Archbishop Sheehan's joyful leadership and integrity, for his
22 friendship and for his fifty years of service to the
23 priesthood;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan be

1 recognized for his significant contributions to New Mexico
2 and be offered congratulations on his retirement; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 transmitted to Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan. _____

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