

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 113

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Nancy Rodriguez

5
6
7
8
9
10 A MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING MAYOR DAVID COSS AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

12
13 WHEREAS, David Coss was introduced to the world of
14 politics at age fifteen when he was hired as chief page for the
15 1970 legislative session; and

16 WHEREAS, David was following in the footsteps of his
17 father, Ronald Coss, who was director of the legislative
18 education study committee when David served as chief page; and

19 WHEREAS, David, then a sophomore at Santa Fe high school,
20 was excused from school for the thirty-day legislative session
21 and recalls assisting Senate Chief Clerk Juanita Pino, Senator
22 Aubrey Dunn, Senator Michael Alarid, Senator Joe Skeen and
23 Senator Jack Eastham; and

24 WHEREAS, David graduated from Santa Fe high school in 1972
25 and received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from
.199998.2

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 New Mexico state university in 1977 and a master of arts degree
2 in zoology from southern Illinois university in 1981; and

3 WHEREAS, from 1981 to 1993, David was an environmental
4 scientist for the surface water control bureau of the
5 department of environment, and from 1993 to 1995, he was
6 director of the environmental protection division of the
7 department of environment; and

8 WHEREAS, from 1995 to 1998, David was director of the city
9 of Santa Fe public works department and was director of the
10 field operations division of the state land office from 1999 to
11 2005; and

12 WHEREAS, for nine years, David was an officer and a union
13 organizer for the communications workers of America, helping to
14 defeat so-called right-to-work laws and to win collective
15 bargaining rights for public workers in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, David was a Santa Fe city councilor from 2002
17 through 2006, serving as a member of the public works
18 committee, the public utility committee, the regional planning
19 authority and the water conservation committee; and

20 WHEREAS, David was Santa Fe's mayor for eight years, first
21 elected in 2006 and reelected to a second term in 2010; and

22 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss's political and management style was
23 focused, collaborative, conciliatory, respectful and open to
24 new ideas; and

25 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss had many significant accomplishments

.199998.2

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 during his mayoral terms and never missed an opportunity to
2 praise and tout Santa Fe's extensive cultural and social
3 offerings; and

4 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss ensured that the city put on its best
5 face when the legislature convened in Santa Fe by welcoming
6 legislators and their families and by providing passes to the
7 city's recreation centers and parking facilities; and

8 WHEREAS, Santa Fe was officially established in 1610, and
9 in 2010, Mayor Coss took great pride in Santa Fe's celebration
10 of its four hundredth anniversary and the opportunity to
11 highlight the city's history; and

12 WHEREAS, during planning and construction of the Santa Fe
13 convention center, an ancestral native Tesuque village was
14 discovered beneath the proposed center, and Mayor Coss worked
15 closely with the Pueblo of Tesuque to ensure that the remains
16 and artifacts were not desecrated; and

17 WHEREAS, the negotiations with the tribal governments were
18 conducted by Mayor Coss with sensitivity and a desire to find
19 middle ground acceptable to all parties; and

20 WHEREAS, under David's tenure as mayor, a living wage law
21 was passed in Santa Fe, the first city in the state to do so;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, in 2009, when the college of Santa Fe was facing
24 closure due to financial difficulties, Mayor Coss assisted in a
25 public-private partnership, which included the city of Santa

.199998.2

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 Fe, to purchase the campus, allowing the school to remain open
2 as the Santa Fe university of art and design; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2013, Mayor Coss received national awards from
4 Americans for the arts and the United States conference of
5 mayors for his local arts leadership; and

6 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss led Santa Fe to partner with the state
7 in such important projects as expanding tourism and the film
8 industry, creating the Santa Fe railyard district, establishing
9 the rail runner commuter train, expanding the Santa Fe airport,
10 restoring the Santa Fe river, implementing the Buckman direct
11 diversion project and supporting affordable housing
12 initiatives; and

13 WHEREAS, public safety issues included increasing police
14 officer salaries across the board to improve recruiting
15 efforts; upgrading equipment; expanding and remodeling the
16 police station; working with police and the immigrant community
17 to improve relations and increase public safety; addressing
18 domestic and sexual violence issues; and assisting with the
19 development of the law enforcement assisted diversion project
20 to allow heroin addicts to be diverted into treatment instead
21 of incarceration; and

22 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss always represented the city at
23 deployment and return ceremonies of the national guard and
24 ensured the placement of a statue honoring medal of honor
25 recipient Master Sgt. Leroy Petry in front of Santa Fe city

.199998.2

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 hall; and

2 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss is proud of the environmental progress
3 made during his tenure, including twenty-five percent of Santa
4 Fe's electricity now being produced by solar energy; and

5 WHEREAS, David is proud and unapologetic about his support
6 for protection of the environment, labor rights, immigrant
7 rights and the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and
8 transgender community; and

9 WHEREAS, David continues his advocacy by serving on the
10 executive board and chairing the legislative committee of the
11 Rio Grande chapter of the Sierra club; and

12 WHEREAS, David and his wife of thirty years, Carol Rose,
13 have three children, Celedina, Dylan and Molly, and he is
14 blessed to still have his parents, Ron and Millie, in Santa Fe;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, in retirement, David is enjoying babysitting for
17 his two granddaughters, Giana Tohee and Madison Lithgow, and
18 expanding his intellectual horizons as a freshman at Santa Fe
19 community college, majoring in Spanish;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that Mayor David Coss be recognized for his many
22 accomplishments and for his selfless contributions to New
23 Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
25 transmitted to Mayor David Coss.

.199998.2