

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING REPRESENTATIVE LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA AND
3 RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

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5 WHEREAS, Luciano "Lucky" Varela was born on February 17,
6 1935 in Pecos; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Varela graduated from Pecos high
8 school, where he played basketball and baseball, and he
9 received a bachelor of business administration degree in
10 accounting from the college of Santa Fe and a law degree from
11 LaSalle university; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Varela began his public service
13 career with the Santa Fe public school district; and

14 WHEREAS, prior to being elected to office,
15 Representative Varela was the state comptroller and retired
16 as the financial control director of the department of
17 finance and administration; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1987, Representative Varela was elected to
19 represent house district 48 and continues that
20 representation; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has been a key figure in
22 state budgets and finances throughout his thirty years in the
23 legislature; and

24 WHEREAS, former Governor Bill Richardson once said that
25 Representative Varela has forgotten more than most will ever

1 know about state finances; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has been the chair of the
3 legislative finance committee every other year for the last
4 fourteen years; and

5 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the legislative finance
6 committee, the state adopted performance-based budgeting
7 through the Accountability in Government Act; public school
8 funding and early childhood program funding were
9 significantly increased; and public pension reform measures
10 were enacted to ensure financial solvency; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is a staunch supporter of
12 state employees and an advocate for better schools and
13 improved health care, fighting for these causes throughout
14 his three-decade legislative career; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has been known throughout
16 his career as an advocate for children and the elderly and a
17 supporter of equality for everyone; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is an astute politician
19 who expresses the utmost respect for his political mentors,
20 such as former Senators Edward J. Lopez, Fabian Chavez, Jr.,
21 and Ben D. Altamirano and former Representatives Ben Lujan
22 and Max Coll; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is recognized as a
24 facilitator rather than a dictator of public policy; and

25 WHEREAS, while Representative Varela is conciliatory in

1 his legislative work, he has always stood strong against
2 fiscal irresponsibility and government inefficiency; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has stated that his major
4 personal accomplishment has been to raise a family, provide
5 for the family's well-being and provide a good future for his
6 grandchildren; and

7 WHEREAS, because of his long political career, many
8 people have fond memories from knowing or working with
9 Representative Varela; and

10 WHEREAS, while serving as the financial control director
11 of the department of finance and administration,
12 Representative Varela earned a reputation for throwing great
13 Christmas parties out of the walk-in safe in the financial
14 control area; and

15 WHEREAS, this is Representative Varela's last term in
16 the legislature; and

17 WHEREAS, the loss of Representative Varela's
18 institutional knowledge will be enormous; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is the father of
20 Bernadette, Jeff and James and has eleven grandchildren and
21 two great-grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, always physically active, Representative Varela
23 enjoys spending time on his family's property in Pecos,
24 cultivating a large garden and baling hay; and

25 WHEREAS, the house of representatives is taking this

1 opportunity to express its gratitude to Representative Varela
2 for his dedication, expertise and compassion while serving in
3 the legislature; and

4 WHEREAS, while Representative Varela has been "Lucky" in
5 life, the residents of New Mexico have been lucky to have
6 such a fierce advocate representing them;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
9 Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela for his outstanding
10 service to the state of New Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela.

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