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HOUSE MEMORIAL 98

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Brian Egolf and Don L. Tripp

A MEMORIAL

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE DONA GALE IRWIN AND RECOGNIZING HER  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, after nine terms of dedicated public service,  
Representative Dona Gale Irwin will be retiring from  
legislative service; and

WHEREAS, a Democrat, Representative Irwin represents house  
district 32, which covers Grant, Hidalgo and Luna counties; and

WHEREAS, Representative Irwin's legislative priorities are  
seen in the committees on which she serves: the business and  
employment committee; and the agriculture, water and wildlife  
committee; and

WHEREAS, coming from the Deming area, Representative Irwin  
has always been supportive of agriculture and the initiatives  
that help farmers and ranchers; and

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1           WHEREAS, Representative Irwin does not hesitate to take  
2 strong stances on issues important to her and has a forthright  
3 manner; and

4           WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is a Silver City native who  
5 spent her early years living with her family at the Silver City  
6 fire department residence, where her father served as fire  
7 chief; and

8           WHEREAS, Representative Irwin attended Silver City public  
9 schools and western New Mexico university; and

10          WHEREAS, in high school, Representative Irwin was on the  
11 annual staff, played volleyball and was a majorette with the  
12 band; and

13          WHEREAS, Representative Irwin learned to ride horses at an  
14 early age and participated on horseback in the annual fourth of  
15 July parades; and

16          WHEREAS, Representative Irwin married Bert Irwin, now  
17 deceased, in 1951, and they had a daughter, Janet, and a son,  
18 Craig; and

19          WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was a stay-at-home mother  
20 for many years and was a substitute teacher at Columbus  
21 elementary school; and

22          WHEREAS, Representative Irwin became a teacher's aide at  
23 Columbus elementary school, where she taught English as a  
24 second language to young children; and

25          WHEREAS, to this day, Representative Irwin is approached

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1 by former students who remember her fondly and thank her for  
2 teaching them English; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin's background is in finance,  
4 and she was employed by first New Mexico bank as a marketing  
5 officer until her retirement; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is very active in her  
7 community and is a charter member of both the borderbelles and  
8 the copperbelles, chapters of the cowbelles; is a toastmistress  
9 and a member of the chamber of commerce and golden gossip; and  
10 is a silver spike, among many other interests; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was a Luna county  
12 commissioner from 1982 to 1986 and the mainstreet project  
13 manager in Deming from 1986 to 1990; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin lived on the family farm in  
15 Columbus for many years, and she moved to Deming in 1997; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin was elected to the New  
17 Mexico house of representatives in 1998; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Irwin is held in high esteem by  
19 colleagues, in friendship and respect;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Representative  
22 Dona Gale Irwin be recognized and honored for her dedication to  
23 the representation and well-being of the people of New Mexico;  
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to Representative Dona Gale Irwin.

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