

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 41

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING RAY LEGER AND URGING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OR THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO NAME AN EDUCATION BUILDING IN LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, AFTER RAY LEGER.

WHEREAS, Ray Leger, who lived from 1925 to 2009, of Las Vegas, New Mexico, was an icon of public service and a champion of education during his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leger was a graduate of Las Vegas high school and received bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from New Mexico highlands university; and

WHEREAS, after working in education throughout northern New Mexico, Mr. Leger became the longest-serving superintendent of west Las Vegas schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leger oversaw the construction of modern west Las Vegas school facilities and a significant increase in

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

1 federal funding and in math and science programs; and

2 WHEREAS, through the United States state department, Mr.  
3 Leger spent a year sharing his expertise on education  
4 administration with the Costa Rican ministry of education; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Leger was the San Miguel county delegate to  
6 the state constitutional convention in 1969 and served as a  
7 Democratic state senator representing San Miguel, Guadalupe and  
8 De Baca counties from 1973 to 1980; and

9 WHEREAS, as a state senator, Mr. Leger authored and  
10 sponsored legislation that championed education and health  
11 services, including a generic drug bill that provides New  
12 Mexicans to this day with significant savings over brand-name  
13 prescription drugs; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Leger sponsored legislation to provide for  
15 the initial state funding of Luna vocational-technical  
16 institute, now known as Luna community college; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Leger collaborated with educators from the  
18 university of New Mexico school of medicine to encourage  
19 students from rural and northern New Mexico to attend the  
20 school of medicine and then to return to their communities to  
21 practice medicine; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Leger also collaborated with other educators  
23 on innovative education endeavors, including the passage of the  
24 Bilingual Multicultural Education Act in 1973, which is the  
25 foundation for multicultural education in New Mexico;

.202666.1

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

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Ray Leger be recognized for his public service and significant contributions to education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education department or the public education department be urged to name an education building in Las Vegas, New Mexico, after Ray Leger; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the secretary of public education and Las Vegas descendants of Ray Leger.