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SENATE MEMORIAL 46

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA.

WHEREAS, after thirty years of being a force of fairness and a champion of fiscal responsibility, Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela is retiring at the end of the 2016 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, a Democrat, Representative Varela will have represented Santa Fe house district 48, which encompasses southern and southwestern Santa Fe, for fifteen terms, from 1987 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, Representative Varela is considered to be one of the chief experts overseeing the state's difficult and complicated budgetary process in the legislature; and

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

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1 ever know about state finances; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has exhibited his
3 considerable financial acumen while serving on the house
4 appropriations and finance committee as deputy chair from 2005
5 to 2014, vice chair from 2001 to 2004 and as a committee member
6 from 1987 to 2000 and from 2015 to 2016; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Varela also has been instrumental
8 in guiding the budget discussions on the legislative finance
9 committee as either chair or vice chair of the committee from
10 2001 to 2014 and as a member from 2015 to 2016; and

11 WHEREAS, during his tenure, Representative Varela served
12 on almost every standing and interim committee of the
13 legislature; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is a trusted advisor and
15 mentor to many of his fellow legislators; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Varela retired from state
17 government as the state comptroller of the department of
18 finance and administration; and

19 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Representative Varela has
20 been a staunch advocate for those most in need of a voice: the
21 children of New Mexico, the elderly and the poor; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has always expressed
23 concern for the education of New Mexico's youth and has been
24 especially focused on the well-being of at-risk youth; and

25 WHEREAS, because of his concern, Luna community college

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1 has established the Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela math
2 and science summer institute to serve students from Pecos, New
3 Mexico, a community close to Representative Varela's heart, and
4 to serve students from San Miguel, Guadalupe, Mora and Colfax
5 counties as well; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has focused on the
7 difficulty of people overcoming the impacts of poverty from
8 birth and has been a supporter of core programs focusing on the
9 well-being of very young children; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Varela supports state workers and
11 educators and was often at the forefront of advocating salary
12 increases and sound pension reform plans for the public
13 employee and educational retirement plans; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has cited his major
15 professional accomplishment as his public service and
16 advocacy for children and the elderly and equality for all;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has cited his major
19 personal accomplishment as raising a family and providing for
20 its well-being and providing a good future for his
21 grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, as Representative Varela winds down a political
23 career that has benefited New Mexico immeasurably, he leaves
24 office on his own terms, with the respect of his colleagues,
25 legislative staff and the many friends he has encountered over

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1 his esteemed career; and

2 WHEREAS, the residents of New Mexico have benefited from
3 the representation provided by this principled, intelligent,
4 fair and honorable man;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela be
7 recognized and honored for his long and distinguished career of
8 public service; and

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