WHEREAS, Stephen Arias' tenure as the chief clerk of the New Mexico house of representatives is remembered fondly by many legislators and staff who worked beside him; and

WHEREAS, an interest in politics came naturally to Stephen, whose father, Ray, was a prominent figure in political, business and fraternal organizations; and

WHEREAS, Stephen was a graduate of St. Michael's high school and attended north Texas state university and the university of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Stephen's legislative experience began in 1966 at the New Mexico house of representatives when the state
capitol was located in the Bataan memorial building, located
across Don Gaspar avenue from the current state capitol; and

WHEREAS, Stephen started out as a page and his early
assignments included reading clerk, pay clerk and purchasing
director, as well as checking hats and coats in the cloak room
for three hours every day; and

WHEREAS, Stephen later advanced to the position of
assistant chief clerk; and

WHEREAS, the house chief clerk worked only during the
legislative session, much like a session employee, and it was
not until 1994 that the chief clerk position became year-round
employment; and

WHEREAS, from 1983 to 1989, Stephen served as executive
assistant and district director for United States Congressman
Bill Richardson; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, at age thirty-seven and as a seventeen-
year veteran of the house of representatives, Stephen was
elected by the Democratic house majority as chief clerk to
succeed Al Romero; and

WHEREAS, Stephen administered and operated the business of
the house of representatives by following advice given to him
by the previous chief clerk to "treat every legislator the same
regardless of whether they are a freshman or the most veteran
committee chair"; and

WHEREAS, as chief clerk, Stephen was in charge of the
entire house of representatives' budget, hiring and training
staff, tracking legislation, directing communication among the
house, senate and governor's office and issuing checks,
including to lawmakers in the house of representatives; and

WHEREAS, Stephen also brought the house of representatives
into the modern age, transitioning from IBM typewriters to
computers; and

WHEREAS, Stephen's job duties also included the
responsibility for approximately two hundred seventy session
employees for the house of representatives and the provision of
constituent liaison services; and

WHEREAS, Stephen retired as chief clerk of the house of
representatives in 2014 after forty-five years of service; and

WHEREAS, Stephen served thirty-two years as the longest-
elected chief clerk in New Mexico and, at the time of his
retirement, was the third-longest serving legislative clerk in
the United States; and

WHEREAS, Stephen has been a member of the American society
of legislative clerks and secretaries since 1983 and served as
the chair of most of the society's committees, including three
terms on the international communication and development
committee, three terms on the executive committee and ten years
on the Mason's manual revision commission, which updated the
Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, after the North American Free Trade
Agreement was signed, Stephen received permission to invite and host legislative clerks from the border states of Mexico, with the chief clerks of Texas, Arizona and California as presenters; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the meeting, the asociacion nacional de oficiales mayores de los congresos de los estados y distrito federal was established with Stephen as one of the founding members, and Stephen currently serves as an honorary board member; and

WHEREAS, Stephen was the recipient of the 2012 national conference of state legislatures legislative staff achievement award presented to the individual from each staff professional association who has demonstrated excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature and strengthening the legislative institution; and

WHEREAS, Steven was born in Santa Fe to the late Irene and Ray Arias; and

WHEREAS, Stephen is married to Victoria Arias; and

WHEREAS, Stephen has two sisters, Adrienne Arias and her husband, Peter Heitzeberg, and Alexis and her husband, Max Byfuglin; and

WHEREAS, Stephen has two sons, Stephen Ray Arias II and his wife, Carla, and Santiago and his partner, Amilya; and a daughter, Kimberly Gabaldon and her husband, Miguel Gabaldon, Jr.; and

.210379.1
WHEREAS, Victoria has a son, Paul Oliver and his wife, Vanessa; and a daughter Michelle and her husband, Rick Rodriguez; and

WHEREAS, Stephen and Victoria are grandparents to Micaela, Cristiana, Antonio, Arron, Gracen, Tristan, Cael, Ricky Jr. and Luke;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Stephen R. Arias be recognized for his long and valuable contribution to the New Mexico house of representatives and the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to Stephen R. Arias.

- 5 -