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HOUSE MEMORIAL 91

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Brian Egolf

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING SOCORRO ARAGON AND HER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AT THE
NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, after a lifetime of dedicated public advocacy,
Socorro Aragón is retiring from the New Mexico house of
representatives, where she serves as the human resources
director; and

WHEREAS, Socorro first worked for the legislature in 1970
and then continuously from 1991 to 2019 and will complete
twenty-eight years of service in the New Mexico house of
representatives at the end of the 2019 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, if there were a competition and team captains
were choosing players, Socorro would be the first pick every
time; and

WHEREAS, that is because Socorro is universally known as

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1 smart and competent, a go-getter, organized and, most
2 important, a team player; and

3 WHEREAS, Socorro is well known for her commitment to
4 preserving and promoting the Spanish history and culture of
5 northern New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, Socorro was raised in a family compound that
7 stretched from Canyon road to the acequia Madre, where the
8 influence of her close and caring family carried over a
9 lifetime; and

10 WHEREAS, that sense of community and deep reverence for
11 her Catholic faith also continues to guide Socorro; and

12 WHEREAS, in celebration of her personal history, Socorro
13 was a 1953 fiesta de Santa Fe princess and the mother of two
14 fiesta de Santa Fe queens; and

15 WHEREAS, Socorro graduated from Santa Fe high school, New
16 Mexico highlands university with a bachelor's degree in
17 education and the university of New Mexico with a master's
18 degree; and

19 WHEREAS, while attending New Mexico highlands university,
20 Socorro met her husband, Arthur, a Korean conflict veteran, who
21 died in 2016; and

22 WHEREAS, Socorro and Arthur had five daughters: Carla
23 Aragón and her husband Allen Lewis, Michelle Marmion and her
24 husband Danny Marmion, Dora Anaya, Contessa Serna and her
25 husband Steve Serna and Camille Aragón; and goddaughter,

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1 Socorro Ojeda and her mother, Zulema Ojeda; and

2 WHEREAS, Socorro also has eleven grandchildren: Justin
3 Marmion, Brittany Marmion, Miranda Anaya, Art Anaya, Estevan
4 Serna, Marisol Serna, Antonio Serna, Jordan Montoya, Alayna
5 Montoya, Olivia Montoya and Carlos Contreras; and five great-
6 grandchildren: Jameson Marmion, Zane Romero, JJ Contreras,
7 Ariyah Contreras and Emma Contreras; and

8 WHEREAS, Socorro is a former Santa Fe high school home
9 economics teacher who is remembered for her work with Governor
10 Jerry Apodaca's office of job training in the 1970s, where she
11 helped many low-income youth enroll in a variety of job
12 training programs, and that experience launched her into a
13 position as a bureau chief with the former New Mexico labor
14 department, where she was one of the first women to be hired in
15 management; and

16 WHEREAS, Socorro spearheaded the creation of Santa Fe's
17 Cathedral park, overseeing every aspect of the endeavor from
18 making sure donors' names were spelled correctly to following
19 up with the brick foundry to ensure the bricks had the right
20 burnish and were shipped in the correct order; and

21 WHEREAS, in honor of her dedication to preserving and
22 celebrating the achievements of Spanish settlers in New Mexico,
23 Socorro was honored with a proclamation from King Juan Carlos
24 of Spain with the prestigious "Order of Isabella the Catholic"
25 award given to Spaniards and a select number of non-Spaniards;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, in 2014, Socorro was chosen by the *Santa Fe New*
3 *Mexican* as one of ten who made a difference, highlighting her
4 dedication to Spanish culture and her significant contributions
5 to her community, and as a founding board member, she helped
6 spearhead El Rancho de las Golondrinas living history museum
7 and friends of the palace of governors and helped in the effort
8 to get the New Mexico history museum built; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2015, Socorro was named a Santa Fe living
10 treasure, recognizing her impact and tireless work throughout
11 her lifetime for the benefit of her hometown, Santa Fe; and

12 WHEREAS, Socorro is known for her sharp sense of humor and
13 used it to great advantage in more than a dozen historical
14 plays she wrote and directed and in which she performed for the
15 women's group and *La Sociedad Folklorica*, and in one play, she
16 showcased New Mexico politics and the "Mama Lucy Gang"; and

17 WHEREAS, Socorro's friends describe her as a woman who is
18 all about loyalty and love, strength and grace; and

19 WHEREAS, Socorro describes herself as a teacher at heart,
20 someone who uses her teaching skills to find the good in a
21 person and then help the person develop it; and

22 WHEREAS, Socorro's philosophy has been a blessing to
23 everyone who has had the privilege of knowing and working with
24 her, from the maintenance staff to the governor's office;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recognition be
2 extended to Socorro Aragón for the knowledge, guidance,
3 compassion and humor she has shared with her colleagues and
4 friends in her twenty-eight years at the New Mexico house of
5 representatives; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
7 transmitted to Socorro Aragón and the family of Socorro Aragón.