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HOUSE MEMORIAL 68

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Brian Egolf and G. Andrés Romero and Patricia Roybal Caballero  
and Linda M. Trujillo and Susan K. Herrera

A MEMORIAL

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE TOMÁS E. SALAZAR AND RECOGNIZING HIS  
SIGNIFICANT SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, after four terms and eight years as a state  
representative for District 70, Tomás E. Salazar, a Democrat,  
is retiring at the end of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was first elected to the  
house of representatives in 2012 in a district that covers  
parts of San Miguel, Santa Fe and Torrance counties; and

WHEREAS, to win the District 70 seat in 2012,  
Representative Salazar ousted a long-time representative; and

WHEREAS, Representative Salazar again defeated Richard  
Vigil in 2014 and ran unopposed in the 2016 and 2018 elections;  
and

WHEREAS, Representative Salazar focused his campaign on

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1 what he considered urgent issues that mattered to his  
2 constituents, such as education, water supply and economic  
3 development; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar is a former New Mexico  
5 highlands university professor who earned a bachelor of science  
6 in mathematics from New Mexico highlands university in 1965, a  
7 master's degree in mathematics from the university of Montana  
8 in 1969 and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the university of New  
9 Mexico in 1976; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar retired after holding  
11 various positions at New Mexico highlands university, including  
12 dean of the college of arts and sciences, as well as positions  
13 at the university of New Mexico, Sandia national laboratories  
14 and elsewhere; and

15 WHEREAS, respected as a savvy numbers cruncher,  
16 Representative Salazar put his expertise to work on the house  
17 appropriations and finance committee, of which he was a member  
18 from 2013 through the 2020 legislative session; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar also was a proud member of  
20 the higher education committee in 2019 and member of the house  
21 education committee from 2013 through the 2020 legislative  
22 session and a member of the house enrolling and engrossing  
23 committee from 2013 to 2014; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was a member of the house  
25 special investigatory committee on the consideration of an

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1 impeachment process from 2015 to 2016; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was very active on the  
3 investments and pensions oversight committee, serving as an  
4 advisory member from 2015 to 2016, the committee chair from  
5 2017 to 2018 and as a member in 2019; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was an advisory member on  
7 the New Mexico finance authority oversight committee from 2015  
8 to 2018 and served as chair in 2019; and

9 WHEREAS, other interim committees on which Representative  
10 Salazar served were the land grant committee, the legislative  
11 education study committee, the legislative finance committee,  
12 the revenue stabilization and tax policy committee and the  
13 water and natural resources committee; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar has served as an integral  
15 leader of the New Mexico association of educational retirees,  
16 AARP-New Mexico, the volunteer engagement advisory council of  
17 AARP and habitat for humanity - Las Vegas; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar was a lifelong member of  
19 the national education association; and

20 WHEREAS, from the beginning of his legislative career,  
21 Representative Salazar's approach was to get local entities to  
22 join forces across the region to approach issues from a region-  
23 based standpoint, rather than as individuals; and

24 WHEREAS, as an educator, Representative Salazar is  
25 passionate about increasing the opportunity for accessible,

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1 quality public education in New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar has focused on  
3 establishing policy and infrastructure to ensure sustainable  
4 water quantities for safe domestic and agricultural use, and  
5 has favored a policy to protect the environment while balancing  
6 the concerns of extractive industries; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar is highly regarded by his  
8 legislative colleagues, staff and the public; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar is respectful of differing  
10 opinions and is always willing to discuss issues with those  
11 holding differing viewpoints; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Salazar brought a wealth of  
13 expertise to the legislature, leaving a stellar reputation  
14 behind;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Representative  
17 Tomás E. Salazar be honored for his significant service and  
18 leadership to New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to Tomás E. Salazar.