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SENATE MEMORIAL 29

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

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria and Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

HONORING KEN SANCHEZ AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO ALBUQUERQUE'S WESTSIDE AND TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Ken Sanchez, a lifelong resident of Albuquerque, spent over forty years on the Westside until his death on January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Ken was a graduate of the West Mesa high school class of 1974; and

WHEREAS, Ken operated the Gilbert Sanchez tax accounting firm on west Central avenue in Albuquerque and was also the president of Ken Sanchez and associates realty; and

WHEREAS, Ken had the honor of serving the public as a Bernalillo county commissioner from 1995 to 2002 and as an Albuquerque city councilor for district 1 from 2005 until his sudden passing; and

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1 WHEREAS, Ken served as Albuquerque city council president
2 in 2010, 2014 and 2018; and

3 WHEREAS, Ken also served the city by working toward a
4 balanced and responsible budget as chair of the committee-of-
5 the-whole in 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, Ken was also appointed chair of Albuquerque's
7 finance and government committee in 2012; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition to other boards and committees, Ken
9 was appointed to the Albuquerque Bernalillo county water
10 utility authority and was elected chair in 2012; and

11 WHEREAS, Ken was committed to improving the lives of
12 Albuquerque's Westside residents and the city as a whole and
13 worked tirelessly with city residents and the Albuquerque
14 police department to address public safety needs; and

15 WHEREAS, among his many efforts, Ken worked with the
16 community, the city council, mayors, governors, legislators,
17 other elected officials and local businesses to bring much-
18 needed economic retail development to the Westside, offering
19 more jobs and places for people to shop near their homes; and

20 WHEREAS, Ken worked with the Westside community and
21 legislators on a number of projects, including fire station 7,
22 the Patrick J. Baca library, the university of New Mexico
23 family health clinic, the Central and Unser transit center, the
24 nuevo Atrisco development and the Unser crossing project; and

25 WHEREAS, other projects Ken supported include improvements

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1 at the Taylor Ranch library, the Joan Jones community center at
2 Pat Hurley park, the renovated West Mesa community center and
3 the Nusenda community stadium; and

4 WHEREAS, Ken worked to bring the Jennifer Riordan spark
5 kindness sports complex to serve the growing population of the
6 Westside; and

7 WHEREAS, Ken cared about parks and places for families to
8 spend time and worked on infrastructure needs as well as
9 recreational needs throughout the city; and

10 WHEREAS, Ken contributed to beautification and driver and
11 pedestrian safety on the Westside with median landscaping and
12 traffic calming measures on Unser boulevard, Ladera drive and a
13 number of residential streets in district 1; and

14 WHEREAS, Ken supported public improvement districts,
15 including the lower petroglyphs public improvement district, as
16 well as a medical campus for the underserved areas of the
17 Westside; and

18 WHEREAS, Ken enjoyed spending time with people over salsa
19 and chips with a cold iced tea; and

20 WHEREAS, Ken lived to watch his granddaughter play
21 basketball and enjoyed seeing his grandson starting to master
22 the game; and

23 WHEREAS, Ken enjoyed spending time with his partner,
24 Cynthia, in their backyard; and

25 WHEREAS, Ken's love was basketball, although he enjoyed

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1 watching, following and talking about all sports; and

2 WHEREAS, Ken lived life to the fullest and enjoyed every
3 moment he was given; and

4 WHEREAS, Ken looked at the positive side of life and
5 welcomed everyone as his friend; and

6 WHEREAS, Ken genuinely cared about others, his city and
7 his state; and

8 WHEREAS, Ken is survived by his daughter, Jaclyn Sanchez-
9 Zamora, and her husband, Juaquin; his son, Christian Arias
10 Sanchez; his brother, Steven Arias; his partner, Cynthia
11 Martinez, and her daughter, Ashley; and an extended family; and

12 WHEREAS, Ken touched the lives of many people through his
13 work as a public servant and the pride with which he served his
14 community;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that Ken Sanchez be recognized for his
17 outstanding service to Albuquerque's Westside and to New
18 Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the family of Ken Sanchez.

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