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SENATE MEMORIAL 24

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND A PUBLIC LOCATION TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE AND WORK OF ROBERTO A. MONDRAGON FOR HIS POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND HIS DEDICATION TO PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING HISPANIC CULTURAL HERITAGE IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Roberto A. Mondragon, a well-known and highly respected public figure with deep roots in the cultural and political life of northern New Mexico, and who served two terms as lieutenant governor of the state, died on January 7, 2026 in Espanola at age eighty-five; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Mondragon was born on July 27, 1940 in Anton Chico, and grew up in the nearby small community of La

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1 Loma in Guadalupe county, and he always retained his roots in
2 northern New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, Roberto Mondragon's humble beginnings shaped the
4 values he carried throughout his life: hard work, humility,
5 faith in people and an unshakable belief that leadership should
6 serve everyday families; and

7 WHEREAS, Roberto Mondragon began his political career
8 serving as a Democratic state representative for Bernalillo
9 county from 1967 to 1970, and served twice as lieutenant
10 governor under former governor Bruce King, first from 1971 to
11 1975 and again from 1979 to 1983; and

12 WHEREAS, in the two terms that he served as lieutenant
13 governor, Roberto Mondragon became one of the most prominent
14 Hispanic elected officials in the region. Across decades of
15 public service, he championed workers and working families,
16 rural communities, youth opportunity and dignity for elders.
17 He was deeply committed to land grant-merced justice in New
18 Mexico, and he worked to support land grant-merced heirs and
19 community land grants-mercedes to protect communal lands and
20 rights promised under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; and

21 WHEREAS, Roberto Mondragon was often described as an "old-
22 fashioned populist", who took on the role of ombudsman in an
23 effort to advance the causes to which he was committed,
24 including services for the aged, juvenile justice, migrant
25 worker welfare and Hispanic civil rights; and

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1 WHEREAS, from 1975 to 1978, Roberto was the director of
2 the commission on aging and from 1983 to 1985 was the director
3 of the state housing authority; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1994, Roberto Mondragon was the Green party
5 nominee for governor, and in 2005, he was chosen to help guide
6 the state with one of its most crucial issues, water, as the
7 special water projects coordinator for the office of the state
8 engineer; and

9 WHEREAS, in his life outside of politics, Roberto
10 Mondragon was a storyteller, musician, radio host and cultural
11 ambassador. Through his recordings, community performances and
12 bilingual broadcasting, he celebrated the language, humor and
13 heritage of New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, Roberto Mondragon also co-owned and operated the
15 nonprofit Aspectos Culturales with his business partner,
16 Georgia Roybal, and they worked together creating culturally
17 based bilingual learning materials for students across New
18 Mexico;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the general services department, the
21 department of transportation and the state parks division of
22 the energy, minerals and natural resources department each be
23 requested to identify and recommend to the legislative finance
24 committee a location, such as a state park, campground,
25 roadway, landscaped area in front of a state building or other

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1 appropriate location, to commemorate the life and work of
2 Roberto A. Mondragon for his dedication as an activist for the
3 causes of common people, and for the preservation and
4 maintenance of Hispanic culture and heritage in New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the legislative finance committee, the general
7 services department, the department of transportation and the
8 state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural
9 resources department.