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**SENATE MEMORIAL 60**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

Manny M. Aragon

**A MEMORIAL**

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO OF  
ERNIE MILLS.**

**WHEREAS, Ernest T. Mills, better known simply as "Ernie" to generations of New Mexicans, began his career as a journalist at the *New York Herald Tribune* in 1949 and ended it more than half a century and countless accomplishments later in New Mexico in 2003; and**

**WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Ernie Mills set a standard not easily reached for informed, objective news reporting, for insightful humor and good cheer, for deep and genuine compassion for his fellow men and women and for a tireless work ethic; and**

**WHEREAS, Ernie's news coverage included two tours as a reporter during the Vietnam War, during which he poignantly**

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1 told the stories of New Mexicans who had been called to take up  
2 arms and for which he was awarded the New Mexico broadcasters  
3 association special reporting award; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1980, while reporting on the deadly riot at  
5 the penitentiary of New Mexico, Ernie Mills bravely and  
6 selflessly became part of the horrific story when he entered  
7 the prison several times while it was under the control of  
8 prisoners to successfully negotiate the release of fifteen  
9 correctional officers who had been taken hostage; and

10 WHEREAS, Ernie Mills' awards include the radio newsman of  
11 the year, best news coverage for large market radio, best  
12 editorial writing and the New Mexico excellence in journalism  
13 award; and

14 WHEREAS, Ernie Mills was well known around the state of  
15 New Mexico and was twice recognized as one of the most  
16 influential persons in New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, Ernie Mills was granted an honorary doctor of  
18 letters degree from New Mexico state university for his efforts  
19 to champion and improve education in New Mexico and for the  
20 example he set as a journalist; and

21 WHEREAS, Ernie Mills served as a member of the board of  
22 regents at western New Mexico university for three years and in  
23 1980 received eastern New Mexico university's honorary alumnus  
24 award; and

25 WHEREAS, Ernie Mills received an honorary doctorate from

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1 the college of the southwest; and

2 WHEREAS, Ernie had an Irish twinkle in his eye and an  
3 unfailing optimism that whatever occurred would be grist for  
4 his "mill"; and

5 WHEREAS, Ernie's presence in the capitol, or the merry  
6 roundhouse, as he called it, will be felt for many years beyond  
7 the date of his passing; and

8 WHEREAS, Ernie Mills is survived by his wife, Lorene  
9 Carpenter Mills, and their daughter, Joy; three children by a  
10 previous marriage, Edmund Mills, Margaret Mills and Kenneth  
11 Mills; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
13 OF NEW MEXICO that Ernie Mills' numerous contributions to the  
14 well-being of New Mexico, its residents and its government be  
15 recognized; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sincere condolences be  
17 extended to the friends and family of Ernie Mills upon his  
18 passing.