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**SENATE MEMORIAL 25**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Shannon Robinson**

**A MEMORIAL**

**RECOGNIZING AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE LIFETIME  
SERVICE OF SENATOR MANNY M. ARAGON.**

**WHEREAS, Senator Manny M. Aragon was born March 22, 1947  
to Charlotte and Mel Aragon; and**

**WHEREAS, he traces his roots in New Mexico to 1698; and**

**WHEREAS, he grew up in the "Tortilla Flats" section of the  
Barelas Barrio in the south valley of Albuquerque; and**

**WHEREAS, he attended St. Mary's Catholic school where he  
was an all-city athlete in football, basketball and baseball;  
and**

**WHEREAS, he attended St. Joseph's college and later the  
university of Albuquerque on a baseball scholarship, finding  
that participating in college sports was a full-time job; and**

**WHEREAS, he transferred to the university of New Mexico**

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1 and majored in political science and minored in English; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Aragon benefited from admittance programs  
3 such as the counsel of legal education opportunity, designed to  
4 prepare students for the rigors of law school; and

5 WHEREAS, he has been a public servant for about four  
6 decades, beginning when he was the youngest delegate at the  
7 national democratic convention in 1968, at age twenty-one, and  
8 was elected as president of the New Mexico young democrats; and

9 WHEREAS, in the fall of 1970, he was one of twelve  
10 Hispanics, the largest group of minorities admitted at that  
11 time, to begin legal training at the university of New Mexico;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in 1970, Governor Bruce King appointed Manny to  
14 the state personnel board, he was elected to the state senate  
15 for the first time in 1974 and he has been re-elected every  
16 year since and has served his constituents' interests in  
17 education, campaign reform, open meetings, women's rights,  
18 senior citizens, public employee and labor relations, the  
19 environment, human rights and international relations; and

20 WHEREAS, he battled with colleagues on the equal rights  
21 amendment and advocated for the poor, minorities, the working  
22 class, women, children and others who are under-represented in  
23 the state; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1988 he was elected senate president pro  
25 tempore, which office he served until 2001, and he has served

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1 as majority floor leader since 2002; and

2 WHEREAS, he is admired, feared, respected and loved; "el  
3 senador Aragon is charismatic, tough and an astute politician--  
4 he knows how to get things done"; and

5 WHEREAS, he is known as a legislator with a social  
6 conscience, believing in government and the power of government  
7 to improve people's lives, and he expects the government to be  
8 proactive in helping the poorest of the poor and the  
9 disadvantaged; and

10 WHEREAS, he has been often mistaken for Clark Gable, and  
11 he is also known to have a big heart; and

12 WHEREAS, he is known by many as "el jefe" and "el  
13 senador", but to most he is a respected colleague and friend;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, he spends a lot of time enjoying the peacefulness  
16 of Abiquiu, and he also appreciates the ambience and people of  
17 Las Vegas, New Mexico, and all that it has to offer;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
19 OF NEW MEXICO that appreciation and recognition be extended to  
20 Manny M Aragon for the unique style of leadership and devotion  
21 he has shown to the legislature and to the people of New  
22 Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to Manny M Aragon and to the board of regents of  
25 New Mexico highlands university.

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