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SENATE MEMORIAL 40

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING NOVEMBER 1, 2007 "READ TO A CHILD DAY".

WHEREAS, a team of fourth- and fifth-grade students at La Union elementary school in the Gadsden independent school district conducted a community literacy initiative and, from what they learned, they wanted to give every third-grade student in New Mexico a book; and

WHEREAS, this team of students began research on New Mexico authors, found more than forty authors, developed a rating rubric and narrowed their list down to fifteen; and

WHEREAS, the students contacted a group of adults who were representative of the state and invited them to be part of a selection committee using their rubric to narrow the list of books to six; and

WHEREAS, the students invited the governor to make the

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1 final decision on a book, and he selected "Santero's Miracle"  
2 by Rudolfo Anaya, with a copy to be given to each third-grade  
3 student; and

4 WHEREAS, the book will be accompanied by a web-based  
5 teacher curriculum and a hard copy of a parent curriculum that  
6 will be tied to the New Mexico curriculum standards; and

7 WHEREAS, the governor selected November 1, 2007 to  
8 distribute the books to every third-grade student; and

9 WHEREAS, November 1 marks national family literacy day and  
10 approximately eight thousand literacy programs will hold  
11 readings, workshops and family activities across the country;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, reading aloud is a time-honored tradition for  
14 parents, caregivers and children, especially in a child's  
15 formative years; and

16 WHEREAS, reading has a lifelong impact on a child's  
17 learning experiences, developmental progress and even social  
18 interaction;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
20 OF NEW MEXICO that November 1, 2007 be declared "Read to a  
21 Child Day" to celebrate the importance of reading; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the  
24 governor.