

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CARL MONROE
3 TURNER AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HIS WIFE, PATRICIA
4 "P.J." TURNER, AND HIS FAMILY.

5
6 WHEREAS, Carl Monroe Turner was born and raised in East
7 Tupelo, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, Carl proudly served his country in the Pacific
9 theater during World War II as both a mechanical trainer on
10 aircraft engines and as an aerial engineer; and

11 WHEREAS, after the war, Carl obtained his law degree
12 from "Ole Miss", where he was active in creating a third
13 political party to ensure the inclusion of Harry S. Truman on
14 the 1948 presidential ballot in that state; and

15 WHEREAS, after that election, Carl moved to New Mexico,
16 where he started his own land title company in Socorro; and

17 WHEREAS, Carl was elected to the New Mexico house of
18 representatives, where he served for one term; and

19 WHEREAS, on April 1, 1960, Carl was selected to be the
20 first executive manager of the newly formed New Mexico rural
21 electrical cooperative association, a position that he was to
22 hold for nearly thirty years; and

23 WHEREAS, Carl was a true champion of rural
24 electrification, fighting for co-ops at the state capitol and
25 in Washington, D.C., throughout his career; and

1 WHEREAS, while serving in that capacity, he established
2 the rural electrical cooperative scholarship program, a
3 program that has provided almost five million dollars
4 (\$5,000,000) in scholarship assistance to more than five
5 thousand sons and daughters of co-op members; and

6 WHEREAS, he is known for creating the first legislative
7 almanac in the late 1960s, a publication that began as part
8 of the January issue of *Enchantment Magazine*, the trade
9 magazine for rural electric cooperatives, and that grew into
10 a popular and highly regarded directory matching names to
11 faces in the New Mexico legislature; and

12 WHEREAS, the national rural electrical cooperative
13 association honored Carl in 2002 by awarding him the
14 prestigious Clyde T. Ellis award, which recognizes recipients
15 for contributions clearly above and beyond the call of duty
16 in furthering the principles and progress of rural
17 electrification; and

18 WHEREAS, Carl was pivotal in the preservation and
19 promotion of the Cumbres and Toltec scenic railroad by
20 developing and garnering support for an interstate compact
21 between Colorado and New Mexico to fund the operation of this
22 historic, narrow-gauge, steam-powered railroad; and

23 WHEREAS, his interest in that railroad never waned, and
24 he served as a Cumbres and Toltec scenic railroad
25 commissioner for extended periods through the years, and in

