

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 EXTOLLING THE LIFE OF MARALYN BUDKE AND EXPRESSING THE SORROW
3 OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HER DEATH.

4
5 WHEREAS, Maralyn Budke was born on February 6, 1936 and
6 passed away on January 9, 2010 with her beloved dog, Adobe,
7 at her side; and

8 WHEREAS, this stark statement belies the extraordinary
9 life of an extraordinary woman who worked behind the scenes
10 of New Mexico history to improve the lives of all New
11 Mexicans; and

12 WHEREAS, Maralyn grew up in Amarillo, Texas, the
13 daughter of Herbert and Sue Budke and received her bachelor's
14 and master's degrees, with honors, in political science and
15 government from the university of New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1958, she served as a student intern for the
17 office of the legislative fiscal analyst in the legislative
18 council service and, as such, assisted the legendary Inez
19 Gill in staffing the one-year-old legislative finance
20 committee, after which she was hired as assistant fiscal
21 analyst in 1959 and served in that post until a heart attack
22 temporarily felled Ms. Gill and caused the restructuring of
23 the committee staffing in 1965; and

24 WHEREAS, Maralyn was named the executive secretary of
25 the legislative finance committee, because the committee

1 could not bring itself to give a woman the title of director,
2 and served in that capacity until recruited by Governor David
3 Cargo to work on his administrative staff; and

4 WHEREAS, Maralyn Budke rejoined the legislative finance
5 committee staff, this time as director, on November 18, 1968
6 and served until her retirement in 1982; and

7 WHEREAS, her tenure began just as the legislative
8 finance committee started to prepare independent legislative
9 budget recommendations and broadened its scope in state
10 finance oversight, and many of the committee's processes that
11 are still in place, including fiscal impact reports, were
12 developed by Maralyn; and

13 WHEREAS, Maralyn was a brilliant strategist, whose
14 instant recall of the smallest detail of the state budget
15 made her invaluable to the several chairmen she so ably
16 served, including legislative giants Representative John
17 Mershon and Senator Aubrey Dunn; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Mershon said of her, "She says
19 what needs to be said. She can look people in the eye and
20 tell them the truth – and make them like it."; and

21 WHEREAS, Maralyn is considered to have been one of the
22 most important and influential women ever to serve in New
23 Mexico government, and she was a consummate professional who
24 always displayed the highest principles and ethical
25 standards; and

1 WHEREAS, the committee staff who Maralyn taught, tutored
2 and mentored over the years reads like a "Who's Who" of state
3 government in the late twentieth and early twenty-first
4 centuries; and

5 WHEREAS, Maralyn returned to state government as
6 Governor Garrey Carruthers' chief of staff for the princely
7 sum of one dollar (\$1.00) per year, reputedly raised to three
8 dollars (\$3.00) at the end when she served as both chief of
9 staff and secretary of health; and

10 WHEREAS, Governor Carruthers has said of Maralyn Budke,
11 "Of all the public servants I've known, she has to be the
12 finest."; and

13 WHEREAS, Maralyn is credited with establishing the
14 state's first motor pool, consolidating control of the
15 state's hospitals, improving the corrections department,
16 playing a major role in reforming the old bureau of revenue
17 and pushing for the creation of the university of New Mexico
18 school of medicine and the university hospital, among other
19 things; and her last service for the state was serving as the
20 chair of the higher education funding formula task force and
21 serving on the governor's ethics reform task force; and

22 WHEREAS, in addition to her public service, Maralyn was
23 well-known for her philanthropic work, supporting the
24 university of New Mexico's school of medicine and its
25 hospitals and serving on the boards of Santa Maria el

1 Mirador, the university of New Mexico foundation, Sangre de
2 Cristo animal protection, incorporated, and the New Mexico
3 international women's forum; and

4 WHEREAS, after her second retirement from state
5 government, Maralyn pursued her interest in the preservation
6 of endangered species and embarked upon five African safaris
7 and a trip to Antarctica; and

8 WHEREAS, in recognition of her significant contributions
9 to public and charitable service, Maralyn Budke was named as
10 a "Santa Fe Living Treasure" in 2006; and

11 WHEREAS, in her incalculable influence as director of
12 the legislative finance committee, the legacy of her two
13 stints as gubernatorial chief of staff and her generous
14 philanthropic work, Maralyn Budke's spirit will live on in
15 New Mexico, and past, current and future generations of New
16 Mexicans owe her a debt of gratitude;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize and commend Maralyn
19 Budke's invaluable service to the legislature and to the
20 state and its residents; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it express its sorrow as
22 well as its deepest sympathies and condolences to Maralyn's
23 many friends and colleagues; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the legislative finance committee and to Anita

