

1 A MEMORIAL

2 EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCE OF THE NEW MEXICO SENATE ON THE  
3 PASSING OF COACH HENRY SANCHEZ.

4  
5 WHEREAS, legendary New Mexico basketball coach Henry  
6 Sanchez passed away on Monday, September 19, 2011; and

7 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez began his basketball career after  
8 graduating from St. Mary's high school in Albuquerque as a  
9 national association of intercollegiate athletics all-  
10 American at the college of St. Joseph, later renamed the  
11 university of Albuquerque, in 1958; and

12 WHEREAS, after graduating from St. Joseph, Coach  
13 Sanchez's first coaching position was at Our Lady of Sorrows  
14 in Bernalillo in 1960; and

15 WHEREAS, after Our Lady of Sorrows closed in 1965, Coach  
16 Sanchez was hired by Bernalillo high school, where his legend  
17 first began to take root; and

18 WHEREAS, over the next eighteen years at Bernalillo high  
19 school, Coach Sanchez led the Spartans to five state  
20 championship games and two state basketball titles in 1977  
21 and 1979; and

22 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez left Bernalillo in 1983 to become  
23 the men's coach at New Mexico highlands university, where he  
24 spent thirteen more seasons and retired in 1995; and

25 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez, unable to shake the coaching

1 bug, came out of retirement in 1996 to lead Robertson high  
2 school until 2001; and

3 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez was named New Mexico prep coach  
4 of the year four times during his career; and

5 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez is also a member of the New  
6 Mexico high school coaches association hall of fame, the  
7 Albuquerque sports hall of fame and the national high school  
8 athletic coaches association hall of fame; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez amassed an unofficial record of  
10 seven hundred two wins and four hundred forty-eight losses  
11 during his coaching career; and

12 WHEREAS, after his coaching career, Coach Sanchez  
13 enjoyed political success by being elected mayor of Las Vegas  
14 in 2002; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez was known for his ability to  
16 connect with members of the community and, later, as an elder  
17 statesman in the basketball community, offering advice to  
18 younger coaches in New Mexico, and as a courtside fixture at  
19 local prep games in Las Vegas; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez was respected throughout the New  
21 Mexico high school basketball community, not only by the  
22 generations of young men who played for him but also by those  
23 he coached against over the decades; and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Sanchez is survived by his father, Tony  
25 Sanchez; his son, Darren Sanchez; his daughter, Janine

1 Salmon; and his granddaughter Kelsi Gonzalez;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that condolences be offered to the  
4 friends, family and countless student athletes whose lives  
5 were touched by Coach Henry Sanchez; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the family of Henry Sanchez, a true New Mexico  
8 basketball legend and a loving and devoted New Mexican.                     

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