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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 10

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FORMER GOVERNOR DAVID CARGO AND APPROVING THE PLACEMENT OF A BRONZE PORTRAIT BUST OF HIM IN THE STATE CAPITOL.

WHEREAS, David Cargo served as New Mexico's governor for two terms, from 1967 through 1970, was sworn in as the youngest governor in the state's history and served at a difficult time that included the June 1967 raid on the Tierra Amarilla courthouse; and

WHEREAS, during his governorship, Cargo created the country's first film office and the state's human rights commission and was instrumental in the state's passage of the White Cane Law, landmark legislation for the blind; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cargo had a healthy agenda of concerns that included establishing a code of legislative ethics,

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1 lobbyist regulations, congressional districting, statewide
2 kindergartens and a state clean air act, all of which have
3 since been instituted; and

4 WHEREAS, as well as overseeing the creation of the film
5 office, Cargo appeared in several films, playing a newspaper
6 reporter in *The Good Guys and the Bad Guys* (1969); a state
7 trooper in *Bunny O'Hare* (1971), a comedy starring Bette Davis;
8 and Corporal Benton in the western *The Gatling Gun* (1973); and

9 WHEREAS, Cargo described himself as a "fiscal
10 conservative" who left office with a surplus of between twenty-
11 three million dollars and twenty-five million dollars in the
12 state's general fund; and

13 WHEREAS, after serving the state as governor, Cargo
14 continued to have wide-ranging influence; and, as a reflection
15 of his deep love of books and reading, he helped many rural
16 communities build libraries; and

17 WHEREAS, Cargo, the appreciative owner of more than sixty
18 clocks, not counting his pocket and wrist watches, said that he
19 had "a thing about utilizing time productively"; and

20 WHEREAS, the spirit of independence that he displayed
21 while serving as governor of New Mexico earned him the nickname
22 "Lonesome Dave", and he stated that "it's cheaper going alone.
23 You don't have to buy hamburgers for everyone"; and

24 WHEREAS, after serving as governor, Cargo continued to
25 pursue various political positions, becoming chairman of the

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1 board at what was then the Albuquerque Technical-Vocational
2 Institute and a member of the city's labor management relations
3 board, and he continued his work as an attorney specializing in
4 environmental and foreign trade issues; and

5 WHEREAS, more than forty years ago, Cargo said that
6 "persons in public office should occupy a position of trust and
7 not of special privilege"; and

8 WHEREAS, highly accomplished portrait sculptor Storm
9 Townsend has created a bronze bust of Governor David Cargo; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico legislative council policies require
11 that the placement of such a bust be approved by a two-thirds'
12 vote in each house upon the recommendation of the capitol
13 recognition subcommittee; and

14 WHEREAS, the subcommittee met on January 17, 2011 and
15 approved the placement of the bust in the office of the
16 governor, while reserving the right to group the bust with
17 similar tributes to other governors at a later date;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the bronze portrait bust of Governor
20 David Cargo be displayed in the state capitol.