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HOUSE MEMORIAL 66

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Rhonda S. King

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE DANICE
PICRAUX IN THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Dr. Danice Picraux has served in the New Mexico
house of representatives since 1991; and

WHEREAS, Danice has been a pioneer and a tireless advocate
for health care, children, education, working families, small
businesses, safe communities, consumer privacy, science and
technology, women's equality, disability rights and cultural
affairs, as well as for the people who have elected her year
after year; and

WHEREAS, Danice is a proud, loving and devoted wife,
mother and grandmother, supported in her work by her husband,
Dr. Tom Picraux; her daughters, Jeanine Picraux, Laura Picraux
and Samantha Picraux; and her grandchildren, Raymond Hughes,

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1 Daniel Hughes and Rachel Picraux; and

2 WHEREAS, anyone who has met Danice has surely heard her
3 say that she loves the legislative process, a process to which
4 she has brought the insights of a professor of political
5 science; and

6 WHEREAS, as a passionate advocate for good government,
7 Danice has taken pride for twenty-two years in communicating
8 comprehensive and accurate information to her constituents
9 about the goings-on in state government; and

10 WHEREAS, Danice was the second woman in the history of New
11 Mexico to be elected as majority leader in the house of
12 representatives, after first being elected by her colleagues as
13 democratic whip; and

14 WHEREAS, during her tenure in the legislature, Danice has
15 served as democratic caucus chair, as chair of the legislative
16 health and human services committee, vice chair of the house
17 appropriations and finance committee, vice chair of the voters
18 and elections committee, vice chair of the rules and order of
19 business committee and vice chair of the higher education
20 committee and as a member of the legislative education study
21 committee, the tobacco settlement revenue oversight committee,
22 the science, technology and telecommunications committee, the
23 printing and supplies committee and many other standing and
24 interim committees; and

25 WHEREAS, Danice made her mark on New Mexico early on, when

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1 in 1997, she shepherded through groundbreaking school finance
2 legislation that educators both locally and nationally called
3 the most significant in nearly a quarter-century; and

4 WHEREAS, Danice has devotedly lent support to education
5 and learning in general, advocating for local school districts,
6 the university of New Mexico, central New Mexico community
7 college, the New Mexico academy of science, scholarship
8 programs, Title IX programs to increase opportunities in sports
9 for girls, funding for libraries and literacy, health care
10 education and programs to foster educational opportunities for
11 women and minorities; and

12 WHEREAS, Danice has worked for full-day kindergarten,
13 early childhood home-visiting, early childhood screenings,
14 immunizations and interventions and funding for pre-
15 kindergarten and daycare programs; and

16 WHEREAS, Danice has been responsible for much of the
17 health care legislation heard in the house during her tenure,
18 including bills to provide affordable health care to all New
19 Mexicans, to provide medicaid and other public coverage for
20 low-income residents, to promote best practices in health care
21 delivery such as the patient-centered medical home and to
22 increase efficiencies in public health care purchasing, as well
23 as legislation that long anticipated federal health care
24 reform; and

25 WHEREAS, Danice has passionately advocated for meeting the

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1 state's growing need for a health care work force, sponsoring
2 bills to create and fund a New Mexico health service corps and
3 other health care work force "pipeline" programs to train,
4 gather data and provide incentives to recruit and retain
5 qualified health care workers in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Danice helped pass laws related to the safety and
7 welfare of children and families, including many laws to
8 address, define and report the crime of domestic violence; to
9 end child abuse and exploitation; to provide a living wage; and
10 to provide a safe environment and clean, safe air and water;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Danice's interest in technology fostered New
13 Mexico's innovative use of technology in delivering health
14 care, funding for green technology, biotechnology and
15 bioengineering programs and opportunities for women in science
16 and engineering; and

17 WHEREAS, Danice has fostered cultural institutions in the
18 state such as Explora, the New Mexico museum of natural
19 history, the New Mexico holocaust and intolerance museum and
20 many programs to promote New Mexico culture and history; and

21 WHEREAS, for her leadership in promoting public libraries,
22 Danice was awarded the New Mexico library association
23 legislator of the year award in 1999; and

24 WHEREAS, Danice has helped many other women to learn the
25 political process and run for office through groups such as the

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1 southwest women's law center and emerge New Mexico, from which
2 she received the woman of the year award in 2008; and

3 WHEREAS, while meeting the demanding schedule of a state
4 legislator, Danice continued in her career as a professor of
5 political science; and

6 WHEREAS, as a legislator and political scientist, Danice
7 has never given in to cynicism regarding the challenges of the
8 democratic process and as a news story on her legislative work
9 reveals, for Danice, democracy "is a work in progress," as she
10 is quoted saying, "[0]ne of these years, we'll look back and
11 say we can be proud of some things and see that we need to
12 change other things. That's the opportunity of democracy.
13 It's phenomenal. One person can make a difference."; and

14 WHEREAS, through her many accomplishments on behalf of the
15 people of New Mexico, Representative Danice Picraux is the
16 embodiment of the idea that one person can make a difference in
17 the democratic process, and she will be very much missed as she
18 retires from her legislative career;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its
21 sincere gratitude and congratulations to Representative Danice
22 Picraux for her long and distinguished service to the people of
23 New Mexico as a member of the house of representatives; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Representative Picraux be
25 congratulated on her many accomplishments as a legislator and

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1 wished well in her upcoming retirement from public service; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
3 transmitted to Representative Danice Picraux.

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