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SENATE MEMORIAL 85

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

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEN LUJAN'S
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND WISHING HIM
GODSPEED UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Ben Lujan began his service in the house of
representatives in 1975, before even the most senior member of
the senate was elected to the upper house; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan was elected by his caucus to be
majority whip in 1983 and majority floor leader in 1999, before
being elected speaker of the house of representatives in 2001;
and

WHEREAS, during his long service in the New Mexico
legislature, Speaker Lujan served as a member of more than half
a dozen standing committees and more than two dozen interim
committees and subcommittees and successfully sponsored

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1 countless pieces of legislation, including measures to increase
2 the minimum wage, to protect homeowners from being forced from
3 their homes by rising property taxes and to spur the economy
4 with business incentives, worker training programs and funding
5 for public works projects; and

6 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan's decision to retire from the New
7 Mexico house of representatives at the end of his current term
8 will leave a remarkable gap in leadership and mark the end of a
9 particularly workmanlike era in that body and in the New Mexico
10 legislature; and

11 WHEREAS, at the same time, the speaker's decision to not
12 seek reelection brings a glimmer of hope to those senators who
13 sponsored legislation that Speaker Lujan believed deserved
14 thorough scrutiny in numerous house committees; and

15 WHEREAS, Speaker Lujan's determination, advocacy on behalf
16 of his constituents and the causes in which he believed and
17 loyalty to the legislative institution will be greatly missed;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that eternal gratitude be expressed to Speaker
20 Ben Lujan for his dedication and service to the people of the
21 state of New Mexico and that he be wished Godspeed upon his
22 retirement from the house of representatives.