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HOUSE MEMORIAL 60

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

William J. Gray

A MEMORIAL

LAUDING ESTELLE HEFLER YATES FOR HER PHILANTHROPIC COMMITMENT TO NEW MEXICO AND RECOGNIZING AND ACKNOWLEDGING HER AS A NEW MEXICO TREASURE.

WHEREAS, Estelle Hefler Yates, age ninety-four, met her husband, St. Clair Peyton "S.P." Yates, in Massachusetts in the late 1930s when he was a graduate student at the Massachusetts institute of technology; and

WHEREAS, Estelle married S.P. in 1940 and moved to Artesia, where S.P. had grown up and where he joined the oil business founded by his father, Martin Yates; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, S.P. founded Yates drilling company, and, later, he and his brothers founded Yates petroleum corporation, and Estelle supported S.P. as he worked to develop two successful family businesses; and

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1 WHEREAS, Estelle has always been very active in her
2 community and her church, helping with many community projects
3 such as the Main Street program and Habitat for Humanity,
4 including donating building sites for habitat homes; and

5 WHEREAS, Estelle and S.P. Yates, generous and active
6 members of the Artesia community, supported many local
7 organizations, especially those serving young people, such as
8 the boy scouts; and

9 WHEREAS, Estelle has been extremely supportive of the arts
10 in the Artesia schools and her community, one example being
11 that she annually brings a dance group to Artesia for one week
12 to teach dance and singing to students at all of the elementary
13 schools in the school district. At the end of the week, the
14 dance group and the students perform for the whole community,
15 with the entire effort made possible by the generosity of
16 Estelle; and

17 WHEREAS, as the Yates family companies grew and their
18 operations expanded to other states, Estelle encouraged S.P. to
19 provide charitable support to those locales as well; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1955, they established the S.P. and Estelle
21 Yates family foundation to support the arts and human services,
22 and the foundation has been a strong supporter, in particular,
23 of the Artesia arts council, the national dance institute of
24 New Mexico and assurance home in Roswell, which cares for
25 homeless and at-risk youth; and

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1 WHEREAS, sadly, S.P. passed away in 2008, but Estelle has
2 continued the couple's tradition of philanthropy, with generous
3 gifts to the university of New Mexico and the university of
4 Texas at Austin, which was her husband's alma mater, as well as
5 to the recently created New Mexico school for the arts; and

6 WHEREAS, Estelle established her own foundation, the
7 Estelle H. Yates foundation, in 2009 to focus her philanthropic
8 giving on education, providing enhanced funding for the
9 mathematics and science departments of the Artesia public
10 schools and providing the funding for the new Artesia public
11 library; and

12 WHEREAS, for most of her gifts, donations and
13 contributions, Estelle has been acknowledged only as "private
14 donor", reflecting the true spirit of giving; and

15 WHEREAS, a great many of the "private donations" made to
16 the Artesia public schools and the community have come from
17 Estelle through the Yates foundation and her own foundation;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Estelle Yates has instilled her philanthropic
20 spirit in her children, St. Clair Peyton Yates, Jr., Mary
21 Catherine Yates Davis and Richard M. Yates;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it laud Estelle
24 Hefler Yates for her many years of philanthropic commitment to
25 New Mexico, particularly to its youth, through her unstinting

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1 generosity; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Estelle Hefler Yates be
3 recognized and acknowledged as a New Mexico treasure; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to Estelle Hefler Yates and her children.

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