

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING STEPHEN R. ARIAS AND RECOGNIZING HIS VALUABLE  
3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
4 THE STATE.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Stephen Arias' tenure as the chief clerk of the  
7 New Mexico house of representatives is remembered fondly by  
8 many legislators and staff who worked beside him; and

9 WHEREAS, an interest in politics came naturally to  
10 Stephen, whose father, Ray, was a prominent figure in  
11 political, business and fraternal organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, Stephen was a graduate of St. Michael's high  
13 school and attended north Texas state university and the  
14 university of New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, Stephen's legislative experience began in 1966  
16 at the New Mexico house of representatives when the state  
17 capitol was located in the Bataan memorial building, located  
18 across Don Gaspar avenue from the current state capitol; and

19 WHEREAS, Stephen started out as a page and his early  
20 assignments included reading clerk, pay clerk and purchasing  
21 director, as well as checking hats and coats in the cloak  
22 room for three hours every day; and

23 WHEREAS, Stephen later advanced to the position of  
24 assistant chief clerk; and

25 WHEREAS, the house chief clerk worked only during the

1 legislative session, much like a session employee, and it was  
2 not until 1994 that the chief clerk position became year-  
3 round employment; and

4 WHEREAS, from 1983 to 1989, Stephen served as executive  
5 assistant and district director for United States Congressman  
6 Bill Richardson; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1982, at age thirty-seven and as a  
8 seventeen-year veteran of the house of representatives,  
9 Stephen was elected by the Democratic house majority as chief  
10 clerk to succeed Al Romero; and

11 WHEREAS, Stephen administered and operated the business  
12 of the house of representatives by following advice given to  
13 him by the previous chief clerk to "treat every legislator  
14 the same regardless of whether they are a freshman or the  
15 most veteran committee chair"; and

16 WHEREAS, as chief clerk, Stephen was in charge of the  
17 entire house of representatives' budget, hiring and training  
18 staff, tracking legislation, directing communication among  
19 the house, senate and governor's office and issuing checks,  
20 including to lawmakers in the house of representatives; and

21 WHEREAS, Stephen also brought the house of  
22 representatives into the modern age, transitioning from IBM  
23 typewriters to computers; and

24 WHEREAS, Stephen's job duties also included the  
25 responsibility for approximately two hundred seventy session

1 employees for the house of representatives and the provision  
2 of constituent liaison services; and

3 WHEREAS, Stephen retired as chief clerk of the house of  
4 representatives in 2014 after forty-five years of service;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Stephen served thirty-two years as the longest-  
7 elected chief clerk in New Mexico and, at the time of his  
8 retirement, was the third-longest serving legislative clerk  
9 in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Stephen has been a member of the American  
11 society of legislative clerks and secretaries since 1983 and  
12 served as the chair of most of the society's committees,  
13 including three terms on the international communication and  
14 development committee, three terms on the executive committee  
15 and ten years on the Mason's manual revision commission,  
16 which updated the *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure*;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, in 1994, after the North American Free Trade  
19 Agreement was signed, Stephen received permission to invite  
20 and host legislative clerks from the border states of Mexico,  
21 with the chief clerks of Texas, Arizona and California as  
22 presenters; and

23 WHEREAS, as a result of the meeting, the *asociacion*  
24 *nacional de oficiales mayores de los congresos de los estados*  
25 *y distrito federal* was established with Stephen as one of the

1 founding members, and Stephen currently serves as an honorary  
2 board member; and

3 WHEREAS, Stephen was the recipient of the 2012 national  
4 conference of state legislatures legislative staff  
5 achievement award presented to the individual from each staff  
6 professional association who has demonstrated excellence in  
7 supporting the work of a state legislature and strengthening  
8 the legislative institution; and

9 WHEREAS, Steven was born in Santa Fe to the late Irene  
10 and Ray Arias; and

11 WHEREAS, Stephen is married to Victoria Arias; and

12 WHEREAS, Stephen has two sisters, Adrienne Arias and her  
13 husband, Peter Heitzeberg, and Alexis and her husband, Max  
14 Byfuglin; and

15 WHEREAS, Stephen has two sons, Stephen Ray Arias II and  
16 his wife, Carla, and Santiago and his partner, Amilya; and a  
17 daughter, Kimberly Gabaldon and her husband, Miguel Gabaldon,  
18 Jr.; and

19 WHEREAS, Victoria has a son, Paul Oliver and his wife,  
20 Vanessa; and a daughter Michelle and her husband, Rick  
21 Rodriguez; and

22 WHEREAS, Stephen and Victoria are grandparents to  
23 Micaela, Cristiana, Antonio, Arron, Gracen, Tristan, Cael,  
24 Ricky Jr. and Luke;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Stephen R.  
2 Arias be recognized for his long and valuable contribution to  
3 the New Mexico house of representatives and the state; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to Stephen R. Arias. \_\_\_\_\_

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