

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING SOCORRO ARAGON AND HER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AT THE
3 NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
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5 WHEREAS, after a lifetime of dedicated public advocacy,
6 Socorro Aragón is retiring from the New Mexico house of
7 representatives, where she serves as the human resources
8 director; and

9 WHEREAS, Socorro first worked for the legislature in
10 1970 and then continuously from 1991 to 2019 and will
11 complete twenty-eight years of service in the New Mexico
12 house of representatives at the end of the 2019 legislative
13 session; and

14 WHEREAS, if there were a competition and team captains
15 were choosing players, Socorro would be the first pick every
16 time; and

17 WHEREAS, that is because Socorro is universally known as
18 smart and competent, a go-getter, organized and, most
19 important, a team player; and

20 WHEREAS, Socorro is well known for her commitment to
21 preserving and promoting the Spanish history and culture of
22 northern New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, Socorro was raised in a family compound that
24 stretched from Canyon road to the acequia Madre, where the
25 influence of her close and caring family carried over a

1 lifetime; and

2 WHEREAS, that sense of community and deep reverence for
3 her Catholic faith also continues to guide Socorro; and

4 WHEREAS, in celebration of her personal history, Socorro
5 was a 1953 fiesta de Santa Fe princess and the mother of two
6 fiesta de Santa Fe queens; and

7 WHEREAS, Socorro graduated from Santa Fe high school,
8 New Mexico highlands university with a bachelor's degree in
9 education and the university of New Mexico with a master's
10 degree; and

11 WHEREAS, while attending New Mexico highlands
12 university, Socorro met her husband, Arthur, a Korean
13 conflict veteran, who died in 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, Socorro and Arthur had five daughters: Carla
15 Aragón and her husband Allen Lewis, Michelle Marmion and her
16 husband Danny Marmion, Dora Anaya, Contessa Serna and her
17 husband Steve Serna and Camille Aragón; and goddaughter,
18 Socorro Ojeda and her mother, Zulema Ojeda; and

19 WHEREAS, Socorro also has eleven grandchildren: Justin
20 Marmion, Brittany Marmion, Miranda Anaya, Art Anaya, Estevan
21 Serna, Marisol Serna, Antonio Serna, Jordan Montoya, Alayna
22 Montoya, Olivia Montoya and Carlos Contreras; and five great-
23 grandchildren: Jameson Marmion, Zane Romero, JJ Contreras,
24 Ariyah Contreras and Emma Contreras; and

25 WHEREAS, Socorro is a former Santa Fe high school home

1 economics teacher who is remembered for her work with
2 Governor Jerry Apodaca's office of job training in the 1970s,
3 where she helped many low-income youth enroll in a variety of
4 job training programs, and that experience launched her into
5 a position as a bureau chief with the former New Mexico labor
6 department, where she was one of the first women to be hired
7 in management; and

8 WHEREAS, Socorro spearheaded the creation of Santa Fe's
9 Cathedral park, overseeing every aspect of the endeavor from
10 making sure donors' names were spelled correctly to following
11 up with the brick foundry to ensure the bricks had the right
12 burnish and were shipped in the correct order; and

13 WHEREAS, in honor of her dedication to preserving and
14 celebrating the achievements of Spanish settlers in New
15 Mexico, Socorro was honored with a proclamation from King
16 Juan Carlos of Spain with the prestigious "Order of Isabella
17 the Catholic" award given to Spaniards and a select number of
18 non-Spaniards; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2014, Socorro was chosen by the *Santa Fe New*
20 *Mexican* as one of ten who made a difference, highlighting her
21 dedication to Spanish culture and her significant
22 contributions to her community, and as a founding board
23 member, she helped spearhead El Rancho de las Golondrinas
24 living history museum and friends of the palace of governors
25 and helped in the effort to get the New Mexico history museum

1 built; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2015, Socorro was named a Santa Fe living
3 treasure, recognizing her impact and tireless work throughout
4 her lifetime for the benefit of her hometown, Santa Fe; and

5 WHEREAS, Socorro is known for her sharp sense of humor
6 and used it to great advantage in more than a dozen
7 historical plays she wrote and directed and in which she
8 performed for the women's group and *La Sociedad Folklorica*,
9 and in one play, she showcased New Mexico politics and the
10 "Mama Lucy Gang"; and

11 WHEREAS, Socorro's friends describe her as a woman who
12 is all about loyalty and love, strength and grace; and

13 WHEREAS, Socorro describes herself as a teacher at
14 heart, someone who uses her teaching skills to find the good
15 in a person and then help the person develop it; and

16 WHEREAS, Socorro's philosophy has been a blessing to
17 everyone who has had the privilege of knowing and working
18 with her, from the maintenance staff to the governor's
19 office;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recognition
22 be extended to Socorro Aragón for the knowledge, guidance,
23 compassion and humor she has shared with her colleagues and
24 friends in her twenty-eight years at the New Mexico house of
25 representatives; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to Socorro Aragón and the family of Socorro Aragón.
