

1 A MEMORIAL

2 FONDLY RECALLING DEE'S RESTAURANT AND RECOGNIZING DEE
3 RUSANOWSKI, WHO CONTINUES TO DISH UP GOOD FOOD AND WARM
4 COMMUNITY AT SAVEUR.

5
6 WHEREAS, Santa Fe has always been known for its
7 abundance of great restaurants, diners, food emporiums and
8 eateries; and

9 WHEREAS, residents who lived in Santa Fe in the 1970s
10 and 1980s will fondly remember Dee's restaurant, also known
11 as Dee's donuts, on Washington avenue, where el meson is now
12 located; and

13 WHEREAS, Dee Rusanowski and her husband, Bernie, moved
14 to New Mexico from California in 1975 and opened Dee's
15 restaurant in 1976; and

16 WHEREAS, kids from that time especially remember
17 grabbing one of Dee's doughnuts on the way to school or
18 grabbing a brownie or hamburger or another doughnut after
19 school or on the weekends; and

20 WHEREAS, Dee's restaurant also was home of the hand-held
21 breakfast burrito, the perfect breakfast to grab and eat on
22 the way to school; and

23 WHEREAS, Dee purposefully kept prices low so that her
24 menu was affordable to kids; and

25 WHEREAS, Dee's restaurant had video games as an

1 additional lure, if the delicious and inexpensive food was
2 not enough; and

3 WHEREAS, during the holidays, Dee and Bernie would
4 invite people who did not have family in town to share a
5 holiday meal, creating a festive atmosphere; and

6 WHEREAS, after twenty-two years of opening their hearts
7 and the doors of Dee's restaurant to appreciative diners, Dee
8 and Bernie retired and set off to travel and perform the
9 volunteer work they had dreamed of doing; and

10 WHEREAS, after eight years of retirement and
11 volunteering with organizations like the Lensic performing
12 arts center, the salvation army and the monastery of Christ
13 in the desert, Dee and Bernie realized that they missed the
14 restaurant life; and

15 WHEREAS, the food and happy customers and the social
16 engagement that a restaurant entails were so seductive that
17 in 2003 Dee and Bernie bought saveur, a French restaurant on
18 Montezuma avenue, and were back in the business; and

19 WHEREAS, saveur is a cozy, intimate restaurant where Dee
20 greets customers at the door and provides social commentary
21 and exudes happiness; and

22 WHEREAS, the French-inspired café tempts with delicious
23 pastries but offers many healthy options as well, including
24 chilled roasted vegetables on the lunch buffet and pink
25 salmon filets and grilled chicken breasts for a build-your-

1 own salad; and

2 WHEREAS, soups are delicious and desserts are sinful and
3 worth every calorie; and

4 WHEREAS, Dee and Bernie still honor their commitment to
5 those less fortunate in the community by donating leftover
6 food at the end of the day to a nonprofit that distributes
7 the food for hospice and the homebound; and

8 WHEREAS, some of the kids who frequented Dee's
9 restaurant grew up to be teachers, government employees,
10 politicians and business owners, and are now customers of
11 saveur, but still reminisce about easier times and the simple
12 pleasures of video games and doughnuts and hamburgers and,
13 oh, those brownies;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the food and
16 community embodied by Dee's restaurant of the past be fondly
17 recalled; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dee and Bernie Rusanowski be
19 recognized for their ongoing gift of good food and warm
20 community at saveur; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to Dee and Bernie Rusanowski. _____

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