

HOUSE MEMORIAL 94

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Brian Egolf

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, kids from that time especially remember grabbing one of Dee's doughnuts on the way to school or grabbing a

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1 brownie or hamburger or another doughnut after school or on the
2 weekends; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Dee's restaurant had video games as an additional
9 lure, if the delicious and inexpensive food was not enough; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, after eight years of retirement and volunteering
18 with organizations like the Lensic performing arts center, the
19 salvation army and the monastery of Christ in the desert, Dee
20 and Bernie realized that they missed the restaurant life; and

21 WHEREAS, the food and happy customers and the social
22 engagement that a restaurant entails were so seductive that in
23 2003 Dee and Bernie bought saveur, a French restaurant on
24 Montezuma avenue, and were back in the business; and

25 WHEREAS, saveur is a cozy, intimate restaurant where Dee

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1 greets customers at the door and provides social commentary and
2 exudes happiness; and

3 WHEREAS, the French-inspired café tempts with delicious
4 pastries but offers many healthy options as well, including
5 chilled roasted vegetables on the lunch buffet and pink salmon
6 filets and grilled chicken breasts for a build-your-own salad;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, soups are delicious and desserts are sinful and
9 worth every calorie; and

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

14 WHEREAS, some of the kids who frequented Dee's restaurant
15 grew up to be teachers, government employees, politicians and
16 business owners, and are now customers of saveur, but still
17 reminisce about easier times and the simple pleasures of video
18 games and doughnuts and hamburgers and, oh, those brownies;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the food and
21 community embodied by Dee's restaurant of the past be fondly
22 recalled; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dee and Bernie Rusanowski be
24 recognized for their ongoing gift of good food and warm
25 community at saveur; and

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

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