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SENATE MEMORIAL 47

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

HONORING SENATOR CYNTHIA NAVA AND RECOGNIZING HER SIGNIFICANT SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Senator Cynthia Nava, a fierce advocate for educational initiatives, retired from the senate in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nava, a Democrat, was first elected to the senate in 1993, representing District 31 in Dona Ana county; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nava dedicated herself to public service for twenty years, serving five terms in the senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nava, a former superintendent of the Gadsden independent school district, chaired the influential senate education committee from 1997 to 2012, having served as vice chair in 1994 and 1995 and as a member in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nava received a bachelor of science and

1 master's degrees in clinical psychology from western Illinois  
2 university and a doctorate of philosophy in educational  
3 leadership and curriculum degree from New Mexico state  
4 university; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Nava was dedicated to the legislative  
6 process, serving on numerous committees, including finance in  
7 1996, corporations and transportation from 2005 to 2008, public  
8 affairs from 2009 to 2012 and the committees' committee from  
9 2005 to 2012; and

10 WHEREAS, during the interim, Senator Nava continued her  
11 service as chair of the legislative education study committee  
12 and as a member of the excellence in higher education study  
13 committee and the educational commission of the states; and

14 WHEREAS, in the span of her legislative career, Senator  
15 Nava was a very effective legislator, spearheading, in 2007,  
16 the Students with Disabilities Scholarship Act, the Mathematics  
17 and Science Education Act and lottery scholarships for military  
18 dependents and disabled students; in 2008, the New Mexico  
19 School for the Arts Act; and in 2011, bills requiring free  
20 school breakfast programs and the expansion of eligible pre-  
21 kindergarten providers; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2005, under Senator Nava's leadership, the  
23 monumental passage of Senate Bill 582 allowed and opened up  
24 access for undocumented students to qualify for state and  
25 institutional financial aid; and

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1           WHEREAS, a student-driven campaign for the passage of  
2 Senate Bill 582 was coordinated by somos un pueblo unido; and

3           WHEREAS, Senate Bill 582 also allowed public post-  
4 secondary educational institutions to administer state  
5 financial aid to undocumented students; and

6           WHEREAS, the legislation also allowed undocumented  
7 students to be eligible for the legislative lottery  
8 scholarship; and

9           WHEREAS, Senator Nava's mentorship and support played a  
10 vital role in her intern, Cindy Nava, who is of no relation,  
11 becoming the first former deferred action for childhood  
12 arrivals recipient to obtain a White House presidential  
13 appointment in 2022; and

14           WHEREAS, Senator Nava's work to expand access to the New  
15 Mexico legislative lottery scholarship to the state's immigrant  
16 students has changed the lives of countless families and  
17 communities, forever benefiting from Senator Nava's efforts;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, during her legislative tenure, Senator Nava's  
20 Gadsden independent school district made great improvements for  
21 the underserved students in the district; and

22           WHEREAS, among Senator Nava's deepest passions are the  
23 culinary delights that come out of her kitchen; and

24           WHEREAS, her famous homemade bread, green chile sauce and  
25 incomparable creme brulee garner rave reviews whenever they are

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1 served; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Nava basks in the company of her  
3 daughters, Alejandra "Allie" Nava, Emiliana "Mima" Nava and  
4 Xochitl "Xoch" Nava, and her husband, Ron Curry; and

5 WHEREAS, no task is ever too large and no battle ever too  
6 tough to tackle for Senator Nava;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
8 OF NEW MEXICO that Senator Cynthia Nava be honored for her  
9 significant contributions to New Mexico and her unwavering  
10 dedication in assisting the underserved students of New Mexico;  
11 and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to Senator Cynthia Nava.