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**SENATE MEMORIAL 2**

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999**

INTRODUCED BY

Carlos R. Cisneros

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING MAY 4 AS NEW MEXICO TEACHER DAY IN HONOR OF  
NATIONAL TEACHER DAY.

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson said that "Above all things, I  
hope the education of the common people will be attended to;  
convinced that on their good sense we may rely with most  
security for the preservation of a due degree of liberty.";  
and

WHEREAS, John F. Kennedy said that "The course of  
civilization is a race between catastrophe and education. In  
a democracy such as ours, we must make sure that education  
wins the race."; and

WHEREAS, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying  
the foundation for good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, the eighty-first congress established  
Tuesday of the first full week in May, which this year falls  
on May 4, as national teacher day; and

WHEREAS, Mattye Whyte Woodridge, an Arkansas teacher,  
initiated the idea of national teacher day by writing Eleanor

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1 Roosevelt in 1944 and suggesting a need to honor teachers with  
2 a national day of recognition; and

3 WHEREAS, May 2 through May 8, 1999 is teacher  
4 appreciation week; and

5 WHEREAS, teachers play critical roles in all our lives,  
6 preparing us for careers, citizenship and family roles, and we  
7 are influenced throughout our lives by the leadership,  
8 knowledge and motivation they provide; and

9 WHEREAS, the quality of teaching influences the future;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico is blessed by some of the best  
12 teachers in the country, ranking sixth in the percentage of  
13 teachers certified by the national board for professional  
14 teaching standards; and

15 WHEREAS, Elaine Griffin, 1995 national teacher of the  
16 year, said, "Public education is the link between our nation  
17 and our dream of liberty and justice for all.";

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
19 OF NEW MEXICO that May 4, 1999 be proclaimed New Mexico  
20 teacher day and that all New Mexicans be requested to give  
21 appreciation and recognition to teachers; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the state board of education and the governor.  
24