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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Stephanie Garcia Richard and Pete Campos

A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 14, 2017 "RUDOLFO ANAYA SUMMER READING PROGRAM DAY" IN THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya is a distinguished New Mexico author and widely celebrated educator; and

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya is best known for his internationally acclaimed novel *Bless Me, Ultima*; and

WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya is the recipient of the national medal of arts, the national humanities medal, the American book award and other accolades; and

WHEREAS, from humble beginnings in the village of Pastura in Guadalupe county, Rudolfo Anaya has used his life's work to share New Mexico's rich culture with the world, bringing great pride and respect to the state; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Rudolfo Anaya's work in higher

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1 education, he has also championed numerous efforts to increase  
2 reading by New Mexico's children; and

3 WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya truly believes that "leer es  
4 poder", meaning "reading is power", and his efforts have  
5 brought critical attention to reading as the foundation of  
6 learning, which is essential to the growth and success of all  
7 children and their communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Rudolfo Anaya believes that New Mexico children  
9 should be familiar with the folklore and traditions of their  
10 state's cultures, such as cuentos, dichos, plays, songs and  
11 Native American stories; and

12 WHEREAS, stories by and about New Mexico encourage a  
13 strong self-identity and help preserve unique New Mexican  
14 languages; and

15 WHEREAS, reading is the most important skill a child will  
16 ever learn, as reading is the gateway to higher education and  
17 career success; and

18 WHEREAS, children need the support of caring adults to  
19 encourage them to read and to keep reading, particularly during  
20 the summer months to retain and strengthen these important  
21 skills; and

22 WHEREAS, a reading program was conceived to inspire  
23 children to read more, and a partnership was formed between  
24 Rudolfo Anaya and the Christopher Montalvo memorial fund; and

25 WHEREAS, the Rudolfo Anaya summer reading program was

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1 launched in April 2016 through local schools, and by the end of  
2 summer, forty-three students from four counties had  
3 participated and were recognized for their reading efforts; and

4 WHEREAS, the Rudolfo Anaya summer reading program  
5 encourages New Mexico children's curiosity and love of learning  
6 and inspires them to become the best readers in the world; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2017, the goal of the Rudolfo Anaya summer  
8 reading program is to increase the program's partnerships and  
9 to reach more children in more New Mexico schools;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 14, 2017 be declared "Rudolfo  
12 Anaya Summer Reading Program Day" in the legislature; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico children be  
14 encouraged to read and keep reading; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the Rudolfo Anaya summer reading program.