

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REMEMBERING JOHNNY COPE AND RECOGNIZING HIS COMMUNITY
3 SERVICE.

4
5 WHEREAS, Johnny Cope, a long-time New Mexico
6 businessman, was born in Midland, Texas, and his family moved
7 to Hobbs, New Mexico, when he was an infant; and

8 WHEREAS, Johnny died on December 13, 2020 in Palm
9 Desert, California; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1966, Johnny graduated from Hobbs high
11 school, where he played varsity baseball, and later earned a
12 bachelor's degree in finance and accounting from eastern New
13 Mexico university; and

14 WHEREAS, after college, Johnny initially wanted to
15 pursue banking, but a prominent Hobbs family offered him a
16 finance job in their oilfield pipe and supply company; and

17 WHEREAS, Johnny took the position and within a few years
18 was co-owner of Lasco construction, buying out his partners
19 in 1978 and a few years later establishing Hobbs rental, an
20 oilfield service company; and

21 WHEREAS, these companies were the beginning of numerous
22 eclectic business ventures that spanned over forty years; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to the construction business,
24 during his business career Johnny became involved as a
25 partner and investor in numerous oil and gas investments, oil

1 and gas service companies, security companies and
2 manufacturing companies, employing hundreds of people
3 throughout the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Johnny's goal was to make Lea county a diverse
5 economy during oil downturns; and

6 WHEREAS, Johnny's philanthropy and generous spirit
7 spanned donations from small to large projects, such as local
8 youth sports and the university of New Mexico and Texas tech
9 university athletics; and

10 WHEREAS, Sam Cobb, mayor of Hobbs, New Mexico, noted
11 that Johnny's companies and investments contributed to the
12 economic health of the community by providing hundreds of
13 jobs, and his philanthropy benefited many institutions and
14 organizations; and

15 WHEREAS, among the many projects in which he was
16 involved was the development and launch of the Johnny and
17 Marty Cope learning center in Ruidoso, which connects youth
18 to the Smithsonian institution; and

19 WHEREAS, Johnny was involved in the creation of the CORE
20 center of recreational excellence, a new golf course and the
21 Zia crossing housing project; and

22 WHEREAS, Johnny is also credited with helping to land a
23 number of Lea county economic projects, including the URENCO
24 USA enrichment plant, the Lea county correctional facility
25 and the Zia Park casino, hotel and racetrack; and

1 WHEREAS, Johnny's public service included sitting on the
2 boards of the New Mexico community assistance council under
3 Governor Toney Anaya and the state transportation commission
4 under Governor Bill Richardson; and

5 WHEREAS, Johnny was a member of the New Mexico amigos
6 and the boys club of Hobbs and Lea county, was active in
7 united way of Lea county and was a founding member and served
8 as chairman of the Eddy-Lea energy alliance; and

9 WHEREAS, Johnny valued loyalty and friendship above all
10 and gave anyone the opportunity to befriend him; and

11 WHEREAS, Johnny once stated that he "started with zero
12 and I want this country perceived that if you can dream it,
13 you can make it happen. That's what America is about"; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor Richardson lauded Johnny as a true New
15 Mexican champion who will be sorely missed; and

16 WHEREAS, Johnny was a lifetime member of the first
17 Presbyterian church in Hobbs; and

18 WHEREAS, Johnny is survived by his brother, Tommy; his
19 daughter, Kyleigh; his stepchildren, Sharron and J.R.; his
20 nephews, Johnny and Zack; and nine grandsons;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Johnny Cope
23 be remembered and recognized for his community service; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the family of Johnny Cope. _____