

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF GOVERNOR BRUCE KING.

3
4 WHEREAS, Bruce King's steady, "mighty fine" leadership
5 as speaker of the house of representatives and New Mexico's
6 longest-serving governor guided the state through parts of
7 four decades; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor King was the catalyst for policy
9 reforms that endure to this day, including the creation of
10 cabinet departments dedicated to protecting children and the
11 environment, enactment of legislation equalizing school
12 funding and the professionalism of state government's core
13 work force; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor King's honesty, loyalty, sincerity and
15 yeoman work ethic, whether in state government or on the
16 ranch, personified New Mexico and its residents; and

17 WHEREAS, the governor's gregarious manner, fondness for
18 draping an arm over the shoulder of anyone within his reach
19 and legendary malapropisms delivered with his customary
20 high-pitched twang served as constant reminders that
21 Bruce King was simply and always just one of us, equally
22 comfortable discussing public policy at El Comedor de
23 Anaya's, advising new governors like Bill Clinton, talking
24 cattle prices at his Stanley home or shaking hands with
25 children during one of his frequent visits to a school; and

1 WHEREAS, Bruce, who was one of only a handful of
2 New Mexico political leaders known to all simply by his first
3 name, died on November 13, 2009, at the age of eighty-five
4 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor King's wife and life partner, Alice,
6 died less than a year before him, separating a previously
7 inseparable couple that faithfully shared political, business
8 and personal decision-making; and

9 WHEREAS, Bruce King viewed holding public office,
10 whether on the Santa Fe County commission, in the New Mexico
11 house of representatives or in the office of the governor, as
12 a public service and would probably be more than a little
13 embarrassed by the commotion surrounding his passing; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor King is survived by his brothers, Don
15 and Sam, with whom he built King Brothers ranches; his son,
16 Bill, who followed him into ranching, and his son, Gary, who
17 followed him into public service; and by a legacy that will
18 endure as long as Bruce's beloved New Mexico;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature recognize the
21 lasting contributions that Governor Bruce King made to the
22 state of New Mexico and express its sorrow upon his passing;
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the memorial be
25 transmitted to Governor King's sons, Bill and Gary, and to

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El Comedor de Anaya's. _____