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SENATE MEMORIAL 26

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING FRANK W. SPRINGER AND REQUESTING THAT NEW MEXICO  
HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY AND THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
REPURPOSE THE MEDIA ARTS EAST AND WEST BUILDINGS IN LAS VEGAS,  
NEW MEXICO, AS THE FRANK W. SPRINGER ART GALLERY.

WHEREAS, Frank W. Springer, who lived from 1848 to 1927,  
was for decades one of the best known citizens of New Mexico;  
and

WHEREAS, trained as an attorney in Iowa, Mr. Springer came  
to New Mexico in 1873 and established a distinguished legal  
career and successfully defended the Maxwell land grant  
company's claims to more than two million acres in New Mexico  
and Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the town of Springer, New Mexico, is named after  
him; and

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1           WHEREAS, Mr. Springer was also one of New Mexico's finest  
2 scholars and was instrumental in the establishment of the New  
3 Mexico normal university in Las Vegas, New Mexico, now known as  
4 New Mexico highlands university; and

5           WHEREAS, in 1919, the board of regents of New Mexico  
6 normal university unanimously ratified a motion made by New  
7 Mexico Governor Octaviano Larrazolo to rename the college's  
8 main building "Springer hall" in recognition of Mr. Springer's  
9 efforts toward the success of New Mexico normal university; and

10           WHEREAS, unfortunately, Springer hall was later destroyed  
11 by fire and the Springer name vanished from the New Mexico  
12 highlands university campus; and

13           WHEREAS, in 1915, Mr. Springer lobbied the New Mexico  
14 legislature to appropriate funds to build what would become  
15 Saint Francis auditorium in Santa Fe, and he commissioned two  
16 murals, which now grace the walls of that auditorium; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Springer supported artistic endeavors and  
18 served on the boards of the school of American archaeology and  
19 the museum of New Mexico, and he supported the development of  
20 Santa Fe's distinctly revised architectural style; and

21           WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university media arts  
22 program will be moving into the renovated trolley barn in Las  
23 Vegas in the fall of 2016 and will be vacating the buildings  
24 currently known as media arts east and west; and

25           WHEREAS, it is proposed that the vacated buildings be

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1 repurposed as the Frank W. Springer art gallery; and

2 WHEREAS, the goals of the proposal are to:

3 A. recognize the role of Frank W. Springer in the  
4 establishment of both New Mexico highlands university and the  
5 New Mexico art museum;

6 B. strengthen New Mexico highland university's  
7 academic programs, especially in the fine arts;

8 C. recognize New Mexico highland university's  
9 artists, especially Elmer Schooley, Ray Drew, Paul Volckening  
10 and Harry Leippe;

11 D. provide a venue for the security, preservation,  
12 display and study of New Mexico highland university  
13 foundation's permanent collection of over two thousand five  
14 hundred donated pieces with an appraised value of about four  
15 million dollars (\$4,000,000);

16 E. expand the foundation's permanent collection;  
17 and

18 F. establish collaborative efforts with other New  
19 Mexico museums and art communities; and

20 WHEREAS, the descendants of Frank W. Springer and the  
21 cultural affairs department have expressed support of this  
22 proposal;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
24 OF NEW MEXICO that Frank W. Springer be recognized for his  
25 significant contributions to New Mexico highlands university

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1 and New Mexico's artistic legacy; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico highlands  
3 university and the higher education department be requested to  
4 repurpose the buildings soon to be vacated, currently known as  
5 media arts east and west, as the Frank W. Springer art gallery;  
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the president and the board of regents of New  
9 Mexico highlands university, the secretary of higher education,  
10 the president of the New Mexico highlands university  
11 foundation, the secretary of cultural affairs and the Colfax  
12 county descendants of Frank W. Springer.