

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO PROPERLY HONOR  
3 ALFONSO "AL" OTERO FOR HIS ROLE AS ORIGINATOR AND FOUNDER OF  
4 THE PROJECT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL  
5 CENTER WITH THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF A PERMANENT WORK OF ART AT  
6 THE CENTER.

7  
8 WHEREAS, Alfonso "Al" Otero honorably served the  
9 New Mexico legislature as a state representative for three  
10 terms, from 1983 to 1988; and

11 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the house of  
12 representatives, Al Otero was passionate about and worked  
13 diligently toward the creation of a national center  
14 celebrating Hispanic culture and art; and

15 WHEREAS, the idea for a center grew out of Al Otero's  
16 personal history, which can be traced back to 1597 when  
17 Spanish conquistador Juan de Onate came to colonize  
18 New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, prior to the establishment of the center, much  
20 vital Hispanic historical and cultural information was stored  
21 in libraries and archives and rarely shown to the general  
22 public; and

23 WHEREAS, Al Otero had a vision for a Hispanic cultural  
24 center that would serve to promote understanding and goodwill  
25 between various ethnic cultures; and

1           WHEREAS, his dream involved establishing a venue in  
2 which to showcase Hispanic cultural contributions to the  
3 great melting pot that is the United States, and locating  
4 this cultural center in New Mexico where a rich Hispanic  
5 history has been celebrated for generations; and

6           WHEREAS, Alfonso "Al" Otero introduced House Joint  
7 Memorial 19 in 1986, during the second session of the  
8 thirty-seventh legislature, calling for the office of  
9 cultural affairs, the university of New Mexico and the city  
10 of Albuquerque to cooperate on a study of the need for a  
11 Hispanic cultural center and museum, to be located in the  
12 Barelas area of Albuquerque where he grew up; and

13           WHEREAS, this joint memorial passed, setting into motion  
14 the plans, funding and organization that, fourteen years  
15 later, would become the national Hispanic cultural center, an  
16 institution dedicated to the preservation and promotion of  
17 the culture of the Spanish-speaking world; and

18           WHEREAS, today, the national Hispanic cultural center is  
19 a mature organization that has staged over twenty art  
20 exhibitions and four hundred programs in the visual,  
21 performing and literary arts, featuring local, national and  
22 international artists; and

23           WHEREAS, the national Hispanic cultural center is one of  
24 eight museums managed and supported by the cultural affairs  
25 department; and

1           WHEREAS, the center is a world-class institute for  
2 Hispanic arts and culture, located in the South Valley of  
3 Albuquerque; and

4           WHEREAS, it is wholly appropriate to recognize and honor  
5 Alfonso "Al" Otero, without whose vision, dedication and  
6 commitment this New Mexico treasure would not exist;

7           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department be  
9 requested to properly honor Alfonso "Al" Otero for his role  
10 as originator and founder of the project to establish the  
11 national Hispanic cultural center with the public display of  
12 a permanent work of art at the center; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs, the  
15 executive director of the national Hispanic cultural center,  
16 the secretary of state and Alfonso "Al" Otero. \_\_\_\_\_

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25