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HOUSE MEMORIAL 43

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

W. Ken Martinez

A MEMORIAL

HONORING CHARLES AND MARA ROBINSON FOR THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY LIFE OF NEW MEXICO, ESPECIALLY THEIR SUPPORT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION, AND RECOGNIZING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THEM AS NEW MEXICO LIVING TREASURES.

WHEREAS, Charles and Mara Robinson, ages ninety-four and eighty-four, respectively, were married following Mr. Robinson's return from naval service in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson served as an engineering officer on the USS *Tuscaloosa*, which participated in the Normandy invasion, and in the Pacific theater at Iwo Jima and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Mr. Robinson began a career in international business, including the founding of the Marcona corporation, a mining concern in Peru;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson, a former opera singer, founded the  
3 Opera-West company in San Francisco in the 1950s, beginning the  
4 couple's many years of support for the performing arts; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson was awarded a master's degree in  
6 liberal arts from St. John's college in 1983 and eventually  
7 became a trustee of the college; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson acted as a "talent scout" for the  
9 Santa Fe opera and served as an advisory council member of the  
10 Santa Fe chamber music festival; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson was a founding member of the New  
12 Mexico school for the arts; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson's business experience resulted in a  
14 diplomatic appointment by then-Secretary of State Henry  
15 Kissinger as undersecretary for economic affairs during  
16 President Gerald Ford's administration; and

17 WHEREAS, within six months, Mr. Robinson became deputy  
18 secretary of the state department; and

19 WHEREAS, following his diplomatic career, the Robinsons  
20 moved to New York City, where Mr. Robinson became an investment  
21 banker, and at the same time began developing property in New  
22 Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson served on the board of directors for  
24 the Nike corporation for thirty-three years; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson spent the last two-and-a-half

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1 decades revolutionizing boat technology; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson received New Mexico's first  
3 visionary designer lifetime achievement award in 2007 and the  
4 United States department of state distinguished honor award in  
5 1977; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson received the Santa Fe  
7 mayor's award in 2009 for their support of the arts in Santa  
8 Fe; and

9 WHEREAS, since relocating permanently in Santa Fe in 1978,  
10 Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have given generously of their time,  
11 resources and energy to support the arts and education in the  
12 community and state;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it honor  
15 Charles and Mara Robinson for their many years of commitment to  
16 the quality of life in New Mexico, particularly their support  
17 of young New Mexico artists; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Charles and Mara Robinson be  
19 recognized and acknowledged as New Mexico living treasures; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to Charles and Mara Robinson and their three  
22 children, Heather Lynne Robinson, Lisa Ann Robinson and Wendy  
23 Paige Robinson.