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HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Carl Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DESIGNATE
HIGHWAY 76 BETWEEN ESPANOLA AND PENASCO AS THE CASIMIRO ROCA
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Casimiro Roca, a northern New
Mexican legend known for his great faith, his enduring age and
his blessing of holy dirt, died last summer just after
celebrating his ninety-seventh birthday; and

WHEREAS, Father Roca was born in 1918 in a small town
outside of Barcelona and came to the United States as a member
of the Sons of the Holy Family to start a new life; and

WHEREAS, the reverend had worked as a parish priest in
Colorado before he was assigned in 1954 to northern New
Mexico's Santa Cruz de la Canada parish, which includes the
Santuario de Chimayo; and

1 WHEREAS, Father Roca was known affectionately over the
2 years as el curita loco de Chimayo ("the little crazy priest");
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Father Roca performed many thousands of masses in
5 the last five decades at the Santuario, which he saved from
6 ruin by adding flagstone to the floor in the late 1970s to
7 shore up the foundation; and

8 WHEREAS, the flagstone was needed as a result of too many
9 people scooping up holy dirt from the floor; and

10 WHEREAS, for decades, the holy dirt, whose popularity has
11 so grown that it is mailed out of the state and the country to
12 the ailing, has lured thousands of people from around New
13 Mexico to the Santuario during Easter; and

14 WHEREAS, part of the holy dirt's lore started with Father
15 Roca, who recognized the miraculous dirt's long reputation,
16 then promoted it through the years by blessing it;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
19 of transportation be requested to designate highway 76 between
20 Espanola and Penasco as the Casimiro Roca memorial highway; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of transportation and the members
23 of the state transportation commission.