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SENATE MEMORIAL 51

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

A MEMORIAL

HONORING HENRY KIKI SAAVEDRA AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, some men leave legacies of wealth and power when
their time on earth is over; and

WHEREAS, Henry Kiki Saavedra left something more valuable:
the esteem and respect of those who knew him and were
privileged to call him a colleague and friend; and

WHEREAS, Representative Henry Kiki Saavedra, a Democrat
who represented an Albuquerque south valley district in the
house of representatives for nearly forty years, died on
January 27, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Kiki was born on March 6, 1936 in Albuquerque;
and

WHEREAS, Kiki graduated from Albuquerque high school and

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1 from St. Joseph's college in Albuquerque and served in the air
2 national guard; and

3 WHEREAS, Kiki worked for the city of Albuquerque as the
4 deputy director of the parks and recreation department and
5 eventually retired in 1995; and

6 WHEREAS, Kiki began his legislative career in 1977, as the
7 representative for house district 10, which at that time
8 included the southern portion of Bernalillo county and a small
9 part of Valencia county; and

10 WHEREAS, his interests were in improving job opportunities
11 and providing adequate social services, including services for
12 the elderly and disabled, to the constituents in his district;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Kiki championed the special olympics, and early
15 in his legislative career sponsored legislation that made New
16 Mexico the first state to provide funds for the special
17 olympics; and

18 WHEREAS, Kiki championed improving the criminal justice
19 system throughout his legislative career by ensuring that the
20 courts, prosecutors and public defenders had adequate
21 resources; and

22 WHEREAS, perhaps most importantly, Kiki was instrumental
23 in building consensus across the aisle in the crafting of many,
24 many general appropriation acts; and

25 WHEREAS, Kiki came into the legislature during the time of

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1 the legendary "Mama Lucy Gang", and he learned how to be a
2 legislator under the expert tutelage of former House Speaker
3 Walter K. Martinez; and

4 WHEREAS, during his long legislative career, Kiki served
5 on some iteration of most of the standing committees and many
6 of the interim committees that were created or sustained over
7 his legislative lifetime, most notably serving on the
8 legislative finance committee from 1983 to 2014 and on the
9 house appropriations and finance committee from 1989 to 2014;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Kiki served with distinction in the south valley
12 caucus and earned the esteemed title of "Chairman Emeritus" or
13 perhaps more properly, "Presidente Emérito"; and

14 WHEREAS, known for his wonderful sense of humor, in 1988,
15 the Honorable Henry Kiki Saavedra was honored by a memorial
16 that "declared him to be HOUSE JESTER for now and forever"; and

17 WHEREAS, upon learning of his passing, tributes from
18 colleagues describe Kiki as a gentleman through and through and
19 praised his lifelong dedication to public service; and

20 WHEREAS, legislators memorialized Kiki for his
21 representation of an era of bipartisanship and teamwork; and

22 WHEREAS, Kiki was known as a man of principles, integrity
23 and old-school charm, with the gift of bringing everyone
24 together; and

25 WHEREAS, in his twenty-eight years of public service with

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1 the city of Albuquerque and thirty-eight years in the state
2 legislature, Kiki was grounded in his commitment to ensuring
3 that his children and grandchildren saw a better tomorrow; and

4 WHEREAS, Kiki's death is mourned as the loss of a
5 statesman and titan of the New Mexico legislature; and

6 WHEREAS, Kiki is survived by his widow, Charissa Saavedra,
7 five children, four stepdaughters, seventeen grandchildren, a
8 great-grandson and his sister, Helen;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge and honor Representative
11 Henry Kiki Saavedra for his dedication to New Mexico through
12 his long years of service in the house of representatives; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the Saavedra family.