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A MEMORIAL

HONORING SALVADOR "SAL" GONZALEZ AND HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHEREAS, Salvador "Sal" Gonzalez, a resident of Anthony, New Mexico, died on November 2, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Sal was the son of Enrique and Consuelo Gonzalez; and

WHEREAS, Sal had quite an impressive high school athletic record at Gadsden High School in Anthony; and

WHEREAS, Sal was named a 1955 high school all-American in football, and his four-year record of scoring and rushing yardage was submitted to the national high school athletic federation as a national record; and

WHEREAS, as a high school fullback, Sal was named to the south all-state football team for three years, was a leading vote getter for the south team and was named captain of the south all-star team in his senior year; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his football accomplishments, Sal played on the Gadsden high school baseball team, a team that won three state championships; and

WHEREAS, Sal said he learned to play football and baseball as a youngster by taking part in sandlot games behind the Baptist church in Anthony; and

WHEREAS, Sal always gave credit to his high school coach

1 George DiTierro for the skills Sal developed in football and
2 baseball; and

3 WHEREAS, Sal rejected a chance to sign a big league
4 baseball contract with the Washington senators on the advice
5 of his father, who wanted him to get a college education; and

6 WHEREAS, Sal enrolled at the university of Arizona in
7 Tucson, Arizona, on a football and baseball scholarship; and

8 WHEREAS, Sal was a pleasant surprise to Arizona coach
9 Warren Woodson, when Sal made his debut as a freshman
10 tailback and amazed his coach with his ability; and

11 WHEREAS, Sal also played on the wildcat baseball team as
12 a third baseman; and

13 WHEREAS, Sal transferred to New Mexico state university
14 after his sophomore year when coach Warren Woodson was hired
15 as head football coach for the aggies; and

16 WHEREAS, at New Mexico state university, Sal played in
17 two victorious sun bowl championships and also played
18 baseball with the aggies and was named team captain; and

19 WHEREAS, following his graduation from New Mexico state
20 university, Sal coached at several high schools, including
21 Laguna-Acoma, Santa Rosa, Los Lunas and Gadsden, where he
22 took many of those teams to state championship finals in
23 baseball and football; and

24 WHEREAS, Sal's career included that of a teacher, coach,
25 athletic director and administrator; and

1 WHEREAS, Sal produced some outstanding athletes during
2 his coaching career; and

3 WHEREAS, after his retirement from high school coaching,
4 Sal served as an interim baseball coach at New Mexico state
5 university and assisted in rebuilding the football program at
6 New Mexico highlands university; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1985, Sal was recognized and inducted into
8 the Las Cruces hall of fame along with other aggie athletes;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Sal was also recognized in 2018 for his
11 leadership as a Dona Ana county commissioner from 1983 to
12 1986; and

13 WHEREAS, Sal was a man of strength, character and
14 integrity, who had the uncanny ability to bring out the best
15 in people he encountered; and

16 WHEREAS, Sal was an inspiration to his athletes and, as
17 a result, many went on to teaching and coaching careers,
18 careers in government and community services and other
19 professional fields; and

20 WHEREAS, Sal is survived by his wife, Betty; his
21 daughters, Teresa and Kathy; his grandchildren, Ava and Alex;
22 and his brothers, Enrique Gonzalez and Ramon Gonzalez;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Salvador "Sal" Gonzalez be honored
25 for a life well-lived and for his many accomplishments; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
transmitted to Sal's wife, Betty Gonzalez.=====