

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

52nd Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2015

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 126

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN F. EGOLF

AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING FORMER HOUSE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS GILBERT LOPEZ.

3
4 WHEREAS, Gilbert Lopez, a former sergeant-at-arms for
5 the house of representatives, died in Santa Fe on February 22,
6 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, Gilbert was born in Rowe on May 23, 1939 to
8 Luciano and Arabella Lopez; and

9 WHEREAS, Gilbert attended Carlos Gilbert elementary
10 school and Harvey junior high school and graduated from Santa
11 Fe high school in 1958; and

12 WHEREAS, Gilbert proudly served his country as a United
13 States marine and during his career won a sharpshooter award,
14 received a letter of merit for an airplane crash rescue and
15 was named marine of the month twice; and

16 WHEREAS, after his military service, Gilbert returned to
17 Santa Fe and worked for the department of transportation for
18 twenty-six years; and

19 WHEREAS, Gilbert met his wife, Rose, at a dance,
20 literally sweeping her off her feet with his fancy footwork,
21 and it was on the dance floor that Rose fell in love with
22 Gilbert; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1991, Gilbert began his next career with the
24 state legislature, serving first as assistant and, in 2005, as
25 sergeant-at-arms for the house of representatives until his

1 retirement at the end of the 2014 legislative session; and

2 WHEREAS, Gilbert was in constant attendance while the
3 house of representatives was in session and enforced the order
4 on the floor of the house, as well as in the lobbies,
5 galleries, passages and rooms connected to the house floor;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, as sergeant-at-arms, Gilbert ensured that only
8 people who had permission were allowed on the house floor and
9 he was responsible for the preparation of bill packages for
10 the house of representatives; and

11 WHEREAS, Gilbert loved clothes and looking "spiffy", and
12 was, as acknowledged by legislators on his retirement, one of
13 the best-dressed men at the capitol; and

14 WHEREAS, the honor of the legislature and the traditions
15 of lawmaking were held in the highest regard by Gilbert, who
16 made sure the protocols of the legislative process were
17 adhered to on his watch; and

18 WHEREAS, Gilbert was proud to have been a co-founder of
19 the friendship club of Santa Fe, a support group for those
20 struggling with addictions, where Gilbert was passionate and
21 compassionate in helping others to overcome their challenges;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Gilbert knew no strangers, cared deeply for
24 people and was always willing and generous to others in need;
25 and


1 WHEREAS, although fondly remembered for his kindness and
2 humility, Gilbert's most lasting legacy will be of his
3 professionalism and dedication to his position as sergeant-at-
4 arms in the house of representatives and the responsibility it
5 bestowed upon him; and

6 WHEREAS, Gilbert is survived by his wife of fifty-six
7 years, Rose Lopez; his son, Steve Lopez; his daughter, Loana
8 Sandoval, and her husband, Eric Sandoval; his granddaughters,
9 Desiree Martinez and Kristina Lopez; his great-granddaughters,
10 Estrella Espinosa and Savannah Ortiz; his brother, Raymond
11 Lopez, and his wife, Rosina; his sister, Linda Lury, and her
12 husband, Charles; his brother-in-law, Richard Lopez, and his
13 wife, Anita; his sisters-in-law, Emily Romero, and her
14 husband, Willie, Dolores Barela and Rosie Lopez; as well as
15 many special relatives and friends; and


16 WHEREAS, Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents,
17 Luciano and Arabella Lopez; his brother, Celestino Lopez; a
18 very special aunt, Onorata "Tita" Gonzales; his nephew, Rudy
19 Lopez; his parents-in-law, Fidel and Carolina Lopez; and his
20 best friend, Horace Manzanares;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Gilbert Lopez
23 be remembered for his warm and caring nature and for his
24 professionalism and dedication to the position of sergeant-at-
25 arms of the house of representatives; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
2 transmitted to Rose Lopez.
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DON TRIPP, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



DENISE RAMONAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES