



The Legislature of the State of New Mexico

**FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2010**

The New Mexico State Senate, Having Learned of the Death of

DON JOSÉ CISNEROS

*Does Hereby Extend its Sincere Heartfelt Condolence and Sympathy
to the Bereaved Family and Friends of the Deceased; and*

*WHEREAS, legendary artist, Don José Cisneros, passed away
peacefully on November 14, 2009, at the age of ninety-nine; and*

*WHEREAS, Don José, a resident of El Paso, Texas, was born on
April 18, 1910, in Villa Ocampo, Durango, Mexico; and*

*WHEREAS, during the Mexican Revolution, Don José's family was
driven from their home and eventually settled in El Paso when he was
fifteen years old; and*

*WHEREAS, as a young boy, Don José taught himself to read and
began drawing, although his formal education only reached the sixth
grade; and*

*WHEREAS, Don José combined his passion for learning and art in
his pen-and-ink historical illustrations, which grace the pages of hundreds
of books; and*

*WHEREAS, Don José took pride in the accuracy of his art and
researched books about horses and costuming, historical reports and
discussions with historians to learn more about the people he drew; and*

*WHEREAS, Don José was considered a master of pen-and-ink
illustration and had his work commissioned by numerous art collectors
and world leaders in the United States, Europe and Mexico; and*

*WHEREAS, the illustrations of Don José are currently displayed in
the White House, Spanish Embassies around the world and the
Texas State Capitol; and*

*WHEREAS, Don José was Knighted by the King of Spain,
Juan Carlos, for his contribution to understanding history through art,
and was presented the 2002 National Humanities Medal by
President George W. Bush; and*



WHEREAS, other honors include the Cisneros Medal from the University of Alcalá, Spain; the Living Legend Honor by Westerners International; the Historical Society of New Mexico's Ralph Emerson Twitchell Award for significant contribution to history in the area of fine art; and the Border Regional Library Association Southwest Book Award; and

WHEREAS, Don José was preceded in death by his loving wife, Vicenta, and his eldest daughter, Inez Watson; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughters, Irene Solla, Magdalena Villarreal, Patricia Cisneros-Pride and Rita Sillas; ten grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Don José had a zest for life and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that heartfelt condolences be extended to the family and friends of Don José Cisneros, a passionate and brilliant Mexican-American Artist.



*Signed and Sealed at The Capitol,
in the City of Santa Fe.*

Timothy Z. Jennings
Timothy Z. Jennings, President Pro Tempore
New Mexico State Senate

Bernadette Sanchez
Senator Bernadette M. Sanchez
New Mexico State Senate

Lenore M. Naranjo
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
New Mexico State Senate