

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.R. No. 853

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Bill Richardson of the state of New Mexico has  
2 dedicated his life to the public good, as a United States  
3 congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, United States  
4 secretary of energy, and now governor of New Mexico; and

5           WHEREAS, Born on November 15, 1947, in Pasadena, California,  
6 Bill Richardson is the son of an American father and a Mexican  
7 mother; raised in Mexico City, he attended high school and college  
8 in New England, where he graduated from Tufts University in 1970  
9 with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree the following year  
10 from its Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; and

11           WHEREAS, Married to his high school sweetheart, Barbara, Mr.  
12 Richardson began his career as a public servant as the U.S.  
13 representative for New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District, one of  
14 the most ethnically diverse districts in the country; serving the  
15 people of northern New Mexico for 15 years, he won 60 percent of the  
16 vote in every election and held 2,700 town meetings; he sponsored  
17 important bills improving rural health care and increasing the  
18 number of nurses in New Mexico, and he was also instrumental in  
19 bringing new industry and jobs to the state; and

20           WHEREAS, A leader in environmental issues, Congressman  
21 Richardson helped create the Jemez National Recreation Area and  
22 protect the Rio Grande and the San Juan Basin; he served as a  
23 special envoy to sensitive international situations, successfully  
24 winning the release of hostages, military personnel, and prisoners

1 in North Korea, Iraq, Cuba, and the Sudan; and

2 WHEREAS, Nominated to represent the United States at the  
3 United Nations by President Bill Clinton in 1997, Ambassador  
4 Richardson worked as an advocate for universal human rights and  
5 democracy and for the status of women in such places as Afghanistan  
6 and Africa; he was active as well in security issues, working to  
7 stop the spread of international terrorism and the proliferation of  
8 biological weapons; and

9 WHEREAS, Unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as  
10 secretary of energy in 1998, Secretary Richardson was a champion  
11 for clean and renewable technologies, environmental  
12 responsibility, and reducing the nation's dependence on foreign  
13 sources of oil; he was the first secretary of energy to request  
14 congress to provide compensation for Department of Energy workers  
15 whose health had been affected by working in nuclear power plants;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Campaigning for the post of governor of New Mexico  
18 in 2002, candidate Richardson broke Teddy Roosevelt's 1907  
19 inauguration day record by shaking 13,392 hands in eight hours; he  
20 was sworn in as governor on January 1, 2003, at the Palace of the  
21 Governors in Santa Fe, the nation's oldest seat of government; and

22 WHEREAS, In his role as governor, Bill Richardson has  
23 garnered support across party lines by improving education, cutting  
24 taxes, expanding access to health care, helping to develop  
25 renewable energy, and building a stronger economy for the people of  
26 New Mexico; he has also made the state safer by strengthening laws  
27 against drunk driving, domestic violence, and sex crimes; under his

1 leadership, New Mexico now has a balanced budget and the largest  
2 budget reserve in state history; he was reelected to his second term  
3 last year by winning 69 percent of the vote, representing the  
4 largest margin of victory for any governor in state history; and

5 WHEREAS, While serving as governor, he has taught a unique  
6 course in state government at New Mexico State University, adding  
7 to his long teaching career at such institutions as Harvard's  
8 Kennedy School of Government, the University of New Mexico, and  
9 United World College; and

10 WHEREAS, Governor Richardson has further served his state and  
11 nation as chairman of the Western Governors' Association and the  
12 Border Governors' Conference, as chairman of Freedom House, a  
13 nonpartisan organization promoting democracy worldwide, and as a  
14 member of the boards of the Natural Resources Defense Council and  
15 United Way International; for his work freeing hostages and  
16 prisoners around the world, he has been nominated four times for the  
17 Nobel Peace Prize; and

18 WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson has worked tirelessly to  
19 ensure the health, safety, and prosperity of his fellow citizens,  
20 and his life and brilliant career are exemplars of America's  
21 diversity and boundless opportunity; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby honor New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson for  
24 his outstanding achievements and commend him for his many years of  
25 dedication to the public good; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for Governor Richardson as an expression of high regard by

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1 the Texas House of Representatives.