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In Memoriam: Albert E. Utton

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The editors of the Natural Resources Journal respectfully dedicate this issue to Professor Albert E. Utton.

IN MEMORIAM: ALBERT E. UTTON
Reflections from Robert Desiderio*

Professor Albert E. Utton, of the University of New Mexico Faculty of Law, died September 29, 1998, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a courageous fight with prostate cancer. During the many years he lived and worked in New Mexico, he was a well-known teacher, scholar and public citizen. His humor, kindliness and vitality endeared him to many. He was 67.

A native of Aztec, New Mexico, Al graduated in 1953 with Phi Beta Kappa honors in Geology from the University of New Mexico. While at UNM he was elected and served as student body president his senior year. He then attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, receiving his law degree from that institution in 1956. In England, Professor Utton also served as assistant staff judge advocate in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Office. He then undertook further law studies at the University of London. He was admitted in 1959 to the Inner Temple of the English Bar as a Barrister, and later that year was admitted to the Bar of the State of New Mexico.

After a brief stint in private practice in Albuquerque, in 1962 Al was awarded a fellowship in International and Administrative Law at the Yale Law School. After completing his studies, he returned that same year to New Mexico to join the UNM Faculty of Law. He remained a valued, distinguished and beloved member of the Law School faculty until his death.

Al taught in the areas of administrative law, water law, environmental law, and international law, and was admired by a host of New Mexico lawyers who began their studies under his tutelage. During his long teaching career, he served on every important committee within the Law School, as well as serving as Interim Dean. In addition, Al was often called upon to chair important committees within the University. On several occasions he represented the Law School by serving as chairperson of the state judicial selection commission. Because of his strong interest and expertise in interdisciplinary study, he was well known throughout the University community, and frequently worked with colleagues in economics, Latin-American studies, political science, business, and public administration.

Early in his career at the Law School Al became Editor-in-Chief of the Natural Resources Journal. He created and directed the special certificate program in Natural Resources Studies, and also directed the Natural Resources Center at the Law School. Professor Utton wrote and

* Dean, University of New Mexico School of Law.
published over twenty books and monographs in various areas of natural resources law and international law. He authored numerous articles, which have been published in law reviews and journals around the world. He established a faculty exchange program between the Law School and the University of Granada in Spain. He also created a certificate program in United States Law for Foreign Service officers of the Mexican Diplomatic Service.

Over the last twenty years, Al focused his considerable talents and energy on international transboundary resource issues. In the late 1980s Al founded and then served as Director of the International Transboundary Resources Center at the Law School. He was an officer of the Water Resources Committee of the International Law Association, co-authored a draft United States–Mexico Transboundary Water Resources Treaty, and served as a consultant and conference participant on transboundary resource questions in North and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. He also served as the Organizing Chairperson of numerous international conferences dealing with international groundwater questions, United States–Mexico transboundary issues, as well as Canada/United States/Mexico relations. In the process, he developed many professional relationships and close friendships.

Closer to home, for nearly 20 years Al served as Chairperson of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, which oversees all of the state’s major rivers, and he represented the state in negotiating a water rights settlement with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe. He chaired and participated in numerous Bar Association panels dealing with environmental law, water rights, and transboundary resource questions. In addition, he was active in many community groups and organizations. He was chairperson of the state Rhodes Scholar selection committee and of the Albuquerque Committee on Foreign Relations, bringing to the city many national and international scholars and diplomats for informal discussion of the international issues of the day. Active in democratic politics, he served as state manager of Robert Kennedy’s 1968 presidential campaign.

Al was the recipient of local, national and international awards too numerous to list, but three stand out. In 1994 he was given the highest honor that UNM bestows upon its faculty when he was selected by the University to deliver the Annual Research Lecture. In 1996 he was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Achievement Award from the UNM Law School Alumni/ae Association, and in 1997 the Mexican Government bestowed upon Professor Utton the Aztec Eagle Award—the highest honor given by Mexico to a non-citizen “for service to Mexico and to Humanity.”

In his spare time, Al was devoted to a number of interests and passions, including his beloved Lobos. He was also an animal lover and particularly looked forward to the enthusiastic greetings of his pet dogs upon his return. Al was an aficionado of adobe brick laying, design and
construction, having built with his own hands the family's first house in Corrales, a house in Santa Fe, and the Uttons' long-time family residence, Casa Utton, on the west mesa overlooking the bosque and the Rio Grande. Finally, he enjoyed travel and with it the opportunity to learn about the customs of different cultures and countries. Wherever he went, Professor Utton enjoyed meeting people and making friends.

Al will be remembered by his colleagues at the Law School as the heart and soul of this institution. The institution will go on, but it will take a long time for us to recover from the loss of his special gifts and his special presence among us. He loved life, loved his work, and in turn was loved by everyone he taught or came into contact with. He was truly un Hombre Bueno in the finest New Mexico tradition. I have lost a true friend and will miss our regular conversations—especially during basketball season.

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UNM FACULTY SENATE MINUTE IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ALBERT E. UTTON

Offered by Michael Browde,* February 2, 1999

He was born and raised in Aztec, New Mexico, and Albert Edgar Utton's life personified all that is great and good about New Mexico. A 1953 Phi Beta Kappa graduate and student body president of the University of New Mexico (UNM), he spent the rest of his extraordinary life in service to this University, to New Mexico, and to the broader world around him.

Al Utton was one of UNM's first Rhodes Scholars. After receiving his Oxford law degree, he was called to the English bar, served in the United States Air Force, and finished his studies at Yale. He then returned to New Mexico and joined the UNM law faculty where he remained, and served with distinction for nearly 40 years, until his untimely death last September 29th.

Professor Utton became one of the world's most distinguished academic experts on transboundary water resource issues. He was consulted by policy-makers here at home as well as those from around the world. He was the central figure in the study of United States–Mexico
transboundary problems, bringing together both academics and policy makers on both sides of the border to work harmoniously on the resolution of those problems. During those many serious sojourns with his international colleagues he always found time to lead the scholars of the world as Foundador y Comisionado de la Comisión en Búsqueda de la Margarita Perfecta! (Founder and Commissioner of the Commission in Search of the Perfect Margarita!).

Al’s service to the Law School and this University was unparalleled. There is no one who was more loved and respected by his colleagues, by University staff, and by students alike. He was an avid Lobo fan who never missed a football or basketball game when he was in town, and who strained mightily to find the Lobos on the radio when he was out of town. His devotion to this University was evidenced by the fact that of all the honors bestowed upon him, he cherished most the honor given to him by this University in 1994, when it named him the Annual Research Lecturer. His topic was, of course, “Water in the Arid Southwest: An International Region Under Stress.” And in the inimitable Utton style, he took time during his talk to single out many in the audience who had some special tie to what he was speaking about.

New Mexico, UNM and the Law School have suffered a loss from which they will never fully recover, and that loss is felt personally by every one of us. Not a day goes by, as I enter the suite of offices we shared for twenty years, without my noting the spirit that is missing from those rooms. We are, however, greatly enriched by the wonderful years we were allowed to spend in his presence.

A Message Sent to Colleagues by Kip Bobroff* on the Day of Professor Utton’s Untimely Death

I don’t know if tonight’s storm was due to Al’s passing this morning, but as the wind and thunder and lightning disturbed the twilight calm, his death disturbs me. I’m angry—with whom or what I can’t say—angry that he is gone. Selfishly, I’m angry that just as I have embarked on this new path—a path he loved and shared with me—he will not be here to offer counsel, advice, good humor. I’m angry that this faculty will not have the many years of eminence grise, which he deserved to offer

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* Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico School of Law.
us. I’m angry that his grandchildren will have only stories and his family’s love to teach them about the man their grandfather was.

At the same time, as I watched the extraordinary light that preceded this evening’s storm—not all that extraordinary here in Al’s home state—I thought about how grateful I am for the light that he shared with us. I’m grateful that after leaving Aztec for Oxford, he came back—bringing Mary—to build his life here in New Mexico. I’m grateful that he stumbled into water law and border issues. I’m grateful that one person could be so genuinely interested in so many different things. I’m especially grateful that he encouraged me when I inquired about law teaching. But most of all, I am grateful to have seen Al’s graciousness and caring. He had a way of putting people at ease—including me as a twenty-two year-old, terrified at the prospect of the state Rhodes Scholar interview—and of addressing difficult issues in a kind, but honest way. I hope that as I grow I can develop Al’s light touch and human warmth.

As I write this, the storm has mostly passed over me, sitting here in Albuquerque’s North Valley. It has passed over the West Mesa and the house that Al built. He would have had a spectacular view tonight. But though the storm is moving on, every once in a while I see a flash and moments later hear thunder. Al’s passing is like that for me. While he has moved on, his light stays with us.

Reflections from Willis H. Ellis*

I first met Al in 1964 at a water law conference. The next year, when I had a chance to join the UNM law faculty, my memory of Al’s warmth and charm was one of the principal reasons I made the move. For many years Al and I were the only two faculty members teaching and writing in the Natural Resources area. Al, of course, also edited the Natural Resources Journal. In fact, after Bob Clark left, he was the Natural Resources Journal. If I ever thought that being Editor of the Journal was an easy job, I was disabused of that notion one semester when Al had to be away and I was designated Acting Editor. The only thing that kept the Journal going that semester was the work that Al had done before he left.

To me, Al’s interpersonal skills were awesome. Visitors—scholars, politicians, students—would arrive. Everyone would be polite and a little

* Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico School of Law.
tense, and then Al would walk in. Before long everyone was at ease, enjoying themselves, and ready to focus on the purpose that brought them together. These skills were all the more effective and appreciated because they were not calculated. They were the way Al was: always positive, friendly, and helpful. He truly cared about others, and wanted them to succeed.

Al was a productive scholar throughout his career, and was known internationally for his work on the Interstate Stream Commission and the problems of streams that cross national boundaries, among other things. He shared the benefits of his international reputation with everyone at the law school. Among the many things for which I am grateful to Al is a wonderful year visiting at the University of Calgary, Canada. Calgary wanted Al for their Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law, but he could not accept because of other commitments. He recommended me; I went and had one of the best years of my career.

Al, my years at the law school were richer, more rewarding, and more fun because you were my colleague. The branch from a fir tree and the blessing you put, for luck, on the roof of my house when it was new are still there. I think of you often, and thank my lucky stars that you were my colleague and friend.

Reflections from Frederick M. Hart*

When I came to the law school in 1966, Al had been teaching here for five years. It was a small faculty, only eight of us, and three of us were new that year. Al and I shared many values, and quickly became friends. That friendship lasted for over thirty years, and ended only with his death. During those years, Al's career blossomed, as did the law school. The contributions that he made to the school are legend. I would like to speak of only one.

Al was one of the outstanding scholars in the field of water law, known throughout the world for his writings. He was also an activist and a leader in bringing people together. Because of his personality, intellect, and character, he was respected worldwide for his ability to devise solutions to disputes spanning national borders. He was not himself confrontational and he had the ability to diffuse those who were. He was

* Professor, University of New Mexico School of Law.
respected by all who knew him for his scholarship, gentleness, ability to reconcile differences and, in a very real sense, his spirituality.

Although he was without question the most renowned scholar on our faculty, he never acknowledged that he was, and, at the law school, he never demanded, or expected, or wanted, to be treated as the extraordinary person that he was. He was our colleague—our friend—our brother. He had respect for each person working there—other faculty, the staff, the librarians, the janitorial crew, the students. He had a true interest in our work, in our well-being and that of our families. Few knew of his accomplishments, and he gloried in that, and in one of his nicknames—"Easy Al."

Our law school is far removed from other law schools and from the large metropolitan areas that are seen as the centers of national and international activity. It would not be surprising for our school to be parochial, looking only inward. Al's work and influence made that impossible. He kept us in touch with the world, and made us a part of it. And yet, Al was a New Mexican totally. The desert, the blue sky, the mountains, the mariachis, the Pueblo feast days, the vast distances, the small towns, the adobes, the vigas, and the people were all part of him. He was of this state, and part of this state. Although a world traveler, with a special connection to England, he always came back. He always came home.

When I became dean, Al should have been appointed, and, if he had indicated an interest in the job, he would have had the support of the entire faculty. They would have demanded that the administration appoint him. But, he had too much going on. He had too many projects, many of which he would have had to surrender, and he declined to be considered. He was, however, my counselor, my advisor. He was the person to whom I, and every dean before and after me, turned for advice. Years later, when we were once again looking for a dean, he again declined to be considered, but he did agree to be our interim dean. The faculty wanted him, not only because he would well fill the role, but also as a way of our recognizing that he had always been a leader at the school. Al was the soul of the law school. His character has influenced every aspect of the school. It is a better place now, and it will always be a better place because he was with us.

Tomorrow (October 4) is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, who, history has it, was a gentle man who gave of himself to others. A prayer attributed to him describes Al:

He was an instrument of peace
Where there was hatred, he sowed love
Where there was injury, he forgave
Where there was doubt, he had faith
Where there was despair, he had hope
IN MEMORIAM

Where there was darkness, he was the light
Where there was sadness, he brought joy.

May he rest in the peace that is due a man who has given of himself to make the world a little bit better place in which to live.

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Without a shepherd, sheep are not a flock.—Russian proverb

Reflections from Suedeen G. Kelly*

Wherever Al Utton went, and whatever he did, he brought people together. Fortunately for us, Al traveled around the world in his research and scholarship in international water law. As he did, he took many of us with him. Many of the people he met abroad, he brought back to New Mexico. Before long, an international faculty and student exchange program had been established here at the University of New Mexico School of Law, almost without our knowing it.

This phenomenon repeated itself often during Al’s tenure at the law school. Al took over the Natural Resources Journal shortly after its birth as a law journal. He quickly made it into a forum where scholars from all disciplines can meet to work jointly on the natural resources problems of the day. Then he began the Natural Resources Center, which is housed at the law school but includes faculty and students from many other departments of the University who Al brought together to work on natural resources issues. Next, he created the Transboundary Resources Center to encourage people from around the world to work together on issues that otherwise have the potential to drive us apart. Al also led the law school itself, always emphasizing our areas of agreement and working to smooth out spots of friction he might find.

Al accomplished all this because he possessed four rare things: the personal qualities of a true leader, the brilliance of a vision, the energy to realize his vision, and a love of mankind. Al was the type of person who coached rather than lectured. He generated goodwill rather than depending on his authority. He inspired enthusiasm rather than fear. He always said “we” rather than “I.” He fixed the problem rather than the blame.

* Professor, University of New Mexico School of Law, and Editor-in-Chief, Natural Resources Journal.
turn, people all over the world loved him. We simply wanted to work on what Al was working on. He made us feel that our contributions, however small, were significant and worthwhile, and that made us work all the harder and accomplish all the more. Al also made us laugh and reminded us to keep enjoying each other.

I am lucky that I was able to work with Al as he handed off the editorship of this Journal to me. I quickly learned that Al has legions of devoted alumni from the student editorial boards of the Journal. They packed to overflowing the church where his memorial service was held. Al nurtured our interest in public policy surrounding the earth’s resources and gave us an outlet to express our interest. He made us proud to care about the law.

While standing outside the law school or walking into the cozy area of the Journal’s office, I often think of Al. He is standing tall, hat in hand, a smile on his face, in the middle of us; and I miss him. William James, the philosopher and psychologist, once wrote that the “aim of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” I don’t know if Al ever read that, or agreed with it, but I am glad that he did it. Al left the world with so many flocks of people that work to carry on his vision and to make life ever more rich.

An Extraordinary Life for a Kid from Aztec

Reflections from Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Albert E. Utton was born in Aztec, New Mexico—a tiny community in the northern region of the state—where he was steeped in the values of a small-town southwestern community: concern for all members of the community, respect for the individuality of others, kindness to all, and, above all, a true love of his fellow human beings regardless of their station or standing. He went on to become internationally renowned for his expertise in the science and law of water—a precious resource in our corner of the world. My favorite thing about Al is that as successful and famous as he became as a world-renowned expert in his field, he never lost touch with the values he learned as a young boy growing up in Aztec; he continued to care deeply about all of us; he never forgot a name or a face;
and he continued to reach out and touch the lives of every individual he ever met.

In 1991 I was privileged to travel to Spain with Al when he organized the conference, *De Santa Fe, Nuevo Mexico a Santa Fe, Granada: The Influence of Spanish Law in the New World*, an academic exchange between the *Universidad de Granada* and the University of New Mexico. Al encouraged me to take my son, Victor, who was then six years old. “It is not every day that a kid from New Mexico has the opportunity to see Spain,” he said with a gleam in his eye.

Taking a six-year-old to an academic conference was not the easiest way to travel to Europe, but Al, and Chuck DuMars and Jose Martinez, the other UNM faculty members who participated in the conference, helped me to care for him. They took turns carrying him on their shoulders and entertaining him. Al would muss Victor’s hair and chat with him about the wonders of the Alhambra or the Cathedral. He wanted to make sure that Victor remembered something about the trip. Al gave him one of the many medals that was bestowed upon him by the Spaniards as we visited Spain.

His generosity of spirit and his intellect were warmly received by the Spanish academics, politicians and others whom we met on this trip. They nicknamed him *El Brindon* (the master of the toast), because at every social event we attended, he would raise his glass and offer a toast. His speeches as he raised his glass to honor people, events, and occasions were always so appropriate that they often brought tears to the eyes of the people who were present.

That Spain had such a profound impact on the world as a result of its colonization of the Americas fascinated Al. He spoke fluent Spanish and never missed an occasion to talk about Spanish, Mexican, and New Mexican history. He would knowledgeably discuss how one family in New Mexico traced its roots from Trujillo, Spain, and another Hispanic family was of Jewish heritage and had escaped the Spanish Inquisition to make a life in New Mexico. During our trip to Spain, I was fascinated by how little Spanish is spoken in Spain. Hearing Valenciana, Catalan and other languages and dialects surprised me. Al explained to me how the expansion to the Americas from Europe was not the expansion of the dominant European power at the time. Rather, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Castile launched a very risky, almost desperate attempt to achieve glory. That their venture rocked the world and created new *mestizo* cultures never lost its fascination for Al.¹ His interest was prodigious. His range of

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¹ I also owe a great debt of appreciation to Al for encouraging and valuing my work about *mestizaje*. See, e.g., *Latino Communities: Emerging Voices, Political, Social, Cultural and Legal Issues* (Antoinette Sedillo Lopez ed., A Garland Series, 1998); *Latinos in the United States: Historical Themes and Identity: Mestizaje and Labels* (Antoinette Sedillo...
knowledge, from fifteenth century European history, to the Pueblo’s reaction and resistance to the arrival of the Spaniards, to how heirs to the Tomé land grant in New Mexico lost their land, was astonishing.

Al organized many conferences during his illustrious career. He published articles in many academic journals, ranging from the Yale Law Journal to the Nebraska Law Review to the Journal of African Law. He served as Interim Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law and on many boards and commissions. He served as a consultant on many major projects and was a beloved teacher and colleague. The Mexican government honored him with the highest award bestowed upon a non-Mexican, *El Aguila Azteca* (The Aztec Eagle Award). The University of New Mexico bestowed upon Al its highest academic honor, the Annual Research Lecturer. He was also a devoted husband to Mary and father to John and Jennifer. Al made a huge difference for individuals and institutions.

I will never forget Al. I will never forget this erudite man who took the time to muss a little boy’s hair and to help him remember the sights, sounds and tastes of that adventure in Spain. Victor will remember Spain, but more importantly, he, like me, will always remember Albert E. Utton.

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Reflections from Helen Ingram*

What can I say in honor of an extraordinary man who always said just the right thing, whatever the context? During the almost 35 years Al Utton and I were professional colleagues and personal friends, he organized and I attended, and more recently we planned together, many, many conferences. Al was a master at conducting gatherings and his extraordinary talent at these events was especially evident in the openings and closings. Al always liked to begin with a *convivio* that sparkled with lively, humorous and witty introductions that set just the right tone for the work to come. He always took careful notes throughout the two or more days of dialogue. Then, in concluding, he extracted gems from verbal ore. With words he drew snapshots of statements made by this or that person, and


* Professor, Warmington Endowed Chair, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine; Associate Editor for Political Science & Administration, Natural Resources Journal.
wove them into general themes and brilliant summaries, adding considerable insight into what had gone on at the meeting. While pulling everything together into a meaningful whole, at the same time he acknowledged each person and gave the group all the credit for wisdom that only he could have made so coherent and interesting. In the end, each person felt included and proud of the collective contribution, just as he intended.

Searching the rich and treasured memory bank of my experiences with Al, I find some lessons for life to recite back to you. I have neither Al’s talent nor the space to do his many lessons justice, but I hope you will fill in what I can only sketch broadly. I know that all of you who knew Al hold in your hearts similar snapshots of him.

First: Never pass up an opportunity to perform an act of generosity or kindness, no matter how important and busy you become. Waiting for transportation to go to the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Al will receive the Aguila Azteca, the highest honor the Mexican government bestows on a foreigner, I remember him pausing to say something kind to a hotel employee and counting to make sure no one would be left behind. He never encountered a secretary, shoe shine person, waitress, or bellhop without making a friend. He once told me that if in his life he made the life of just one person happier, richer, and more meaningful, for even a little while, he would feel he had lived successfully.

Second: There is no separation between fun and work or between pleasure and productivity. Work, no matter how difficult, should never be allowed to become grim drudgery. Pleasure should always have a purpose, including making sure everyone else is having a good time. I remember Al with a completely straight face explaining to the President of the Ford Foundation the criteria for evaluating the perfect Margarita.

Third: Intelligence is as much a matter of values as brains. Al believed in and knew things, not just with his intellect but with his whole living self. His spirit was like the great rivers he studied, with waters mingling from the mountainous sources of his wonderful mind and his huge heart. Together, his head and heart were a powerful force we always felt when we were with him—a force to carry us all for the rest of our days. He did indeed make all our lives happier, richer, and more meaningful.
Reflections from Alberto Székely

Al Utton made us rich—yes he did. Once I heard the news about his passing away, I called his wife, Mary. Typical of her, she consoled me, not the other way around, and she urged me to think and remember the many wonderful occasions, the hours of pure joy, the memories of so many good things he gave us and that we shared with him. I cannot feel but encouraged when I recall how Al used to tell funny stories and jokes about famous people who were finally reaching the pearly gates. They were trying so hard to persuade St. Peter to let them through. I can see Al now, going tall, smiling and elegant through those gates, hat in hand, not having to do any persuading whatsoever. I can see him being welcomed with a party where, finally, that perfect drink is surely being served, no more searching for it. That really must have seemed like heaven to him.

Only last November (1997) I was celebrating Al's life at another occasion, speaking before an audience of loved ones, recalling his bright and outstanding academic and professional achievements and his contributions to my country, which he loved. These many contributions earned him, on that day, the highest award that is ever bestowed by Mexico upon a foreigner, the Aztec Eagle. It was such a great and unforgettable moment for all of us. We were all radiant and full of pride for him, just as we should be today.

We are now, once again, celebrating Al, but I also propose to thank him. I want to thank him, and I know many others will join in this gratitude to Al Utton for making us rich. He left us such a wealthy inheritance of kindness, love, understanding, and above all, a good example to follow. An example so good that we now know, thanks to him, the sure way by which we can see him again. He also left us his magnificent family, his incomparable Mary, his children and his grandchildren. And finally, he left us memories, golden ones that we shall keep in our hearts for this terrific guy. Thank you, Lord, for such an unparalleled privilege, and for just one more time, thank you, Tocayo.

* Mexican Ambassador to the United States.
A JOINT MEMORIAL RECOGNIZING THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALBERT E. UTTON TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY UPON HIS PASSING

WHEREAS, Albert E. Utton was a native son of this State—born in Aztec, educated at the University of New Mexico—and a distinguished member of the UNM law faculty for nearly forty years; and
WHEREAS, Al Utton became a world-renowned expert in transboundary water resources law and policy; and
WHEREAS, Al Utton was also a well-known teacher, scholar and public citizen, whose varied contributions to New Mexico, the University, and the Law School were not limited to the body of knowledge he left behind or the wisdom he imparted to the hundreds of law students who came to know and love him, many of whom have served and presently serve in this legislature; and
WHEREAS, Al Utton increased New Mexicans' appreciation for natural resources law by serving as editor-in-chief of the internationally renowned Natural Resources Journal, director of the Natural Resources Center at the Law School and author of more than twenty books and monographs on various aspects of natural resources law and international law; and
WHEREAS, Al Utton served for nearly 20 years as the chairman of the New Mexico interstate stream commission, which oversees all the state's major rivers, and represented the state in negotiating a water rights settlement with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe; and
WHEREAS, Al Utton was tireless in his devotion to improving the quality of life for all New Mexicans, and to that end, graciously and generously provided wise counsel and advice to this Legislature and others involved in policy-making for the betterment of the State and its people; and
WHEREAS, New Mexico and this legislature have suffered an incalculable loss by his passing, but are left greatly enriched by his presence among us; and
WHEREAS, Al Utton, also enriched this State by returning to New Mexico from his studies at Oxford and service in the air force with his English bride, Mary, who became a valued public servant in the juvenile justice system of this state until her recent retirement; and
WHEREAS, Al Utton was a wonderful and loving husband to his wife, Mary, and a generous and caring father and grandfather to his daughter, Jennifer, his son John, and their families;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that this legislature, on behalf of the people of New Mexico, extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to Mary and the entire family of Al Utton upon his passing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be presented to Mary Utton at a public ceremony in the New Mexico legislature.

Done at Santa Fe, New Mexico

Raymond G. Sanchez,
Speaker of the House

This 3rd day of March, 1999

Steve Arias, Clerk