



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

Governor Richardson Dedicates NM 526 In Raton As The “E. Kelly Mora Memorial Highway” In Honor Of Former State Legislator

For Immediate Release
August 19, 2005

Contact: Pahl Shipley
505-476-2209

RATON-Governor Bill Richardson today dedicated NM 526 in Raton as the “E. Kelly Mora Memorial Highway” in honor of the former state legislator. The state highway leads up to the Lake Maloya Sugarite Canyon State Park.

“Kelly Mora was a true New Mexican, a man of the people who lived to serve his neighbors, his community, and his state,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “A coal miner, decorated World War II Veteran, county commissioner and state legislator, Kelly Mora dedicated his life to protecting his fellow citizens, fighting for the underdog, and working to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans. He was a velvet hammer, a tough guy with a heart of gold and soft spot for people who needed help.”

E. Kelly Mora started his distinguished political career as a Colfax County Commissioner in 1959, and was re-elected in 1961 as a Chairman of the Colfax County Commission. He was then elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives in 1966, and served in that seat, representing the people of northeastern New Mexico, for 22 years. Mora was instrumental in establishing the Lake Maloya Sugarite Canyon State Park.

“As a county commissioner and legislator, he stayed true to his rural, blue collar roots. He tirelessly supported the coal industry in Raton and economic development to ensure people in northeastern New Mexico had good jobs, Governor Richardson said.

“Kelly Mora’s accomplishments are too numerous to list, but there is no doubt New Mexicans will continue to benefit from his life’s work for generations to come. Those accomplishments are also reflected in the eyes of his most important constituency- his

family- his wife Livia, his son Kelly D. Mora, and all of his friends and loved ones,” Governor Richardson said.

“Representative Mora is greatly missed and cannot be replaced. He certainly left his mark on New Mexico- the state is a better place in large part because of his efforts. Therefore it is fitting we establish a permanent monument to a man who made a monumental difference in our state, and in so many lives,” Governor Richardson said.

The dedication ceremony was attended by Congressman Tom Udall; Transportation Commissioner Jim Franken from Las Vegas; Livia Mora, widow of E. Kelly Mora; Kelly D. Mora, son of E. Kelly Mora; Raton Mayor Joe Apache and other dignitaries.