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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *110th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD EDWARD GENSER

1944-2008

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 10, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madame Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise today to honor an environmental leader whose work and passion has made the Sonoran Desert truly a better place.

Richard Edward Genser, known as Rich, Rex, and to many of his good friends as Geronimo, was born in Newark, New Jersey and spent his childhood in South Orange, New Jersey. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Rich came to Tucson Arizona in the late 1980s. Although in the real estate business, his passion was preserving natural areas, protecting wilderness, and ensuring that development was directed away from the most sensitive lands.

Rich was a lifelong member of the Sierra Club and served the organization in several capacities including as chair of its Grand Canyon Chapter as well as its Rincon Group in southern Arizona. He helped to found the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection and was key in the efforts to Save the Scenic Santa Ritas from mining threats, a threat that has not yet been extinguished.

Rich was a good friend to many and there was no one who was more full of life. He loved Arizona, he loved the Earth, and he loved the Sierra Club and all of his many friends there. Rich also loved a good fight (for the environment) and helped with numerous efforts, including a successful effort to promote Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Richard Genser passed away on February 27, 2008 at the young age of 63. He is survived by his wife, Claire; father, Lester Genser (Agnes); son, Jordon Genser; sister, Susan Bulger; brother, Jon Genser (Annie); step-daughters Carol Bailey Stevens (Eloy), Ashley Ronen (Shlomi); four grandchildren, Zaida, Blue, Hailey, and Samantha; three nieces, Laura, Jane, and Courtney, a nephew, Gregg; several great-nieces and nephews, and his ex-wife Jill Genser.

Rich leaves a legacy that cannot be adequately expressed in words, and gives all of us who have known him and worked with him inspiration to follow our passion and know that one person can make a difference for the better.