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A MEMORIAL

DECLARING JANUARY 30, 2024 AS "VALENCIA COUNTY DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Valencia county is part of the Rio Abajo; and

WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the largest matanza in the world, and the matanza is a symbol of the rich Spanish heritage of the Rio Grande valley; and

WHEREAS, the matanza is a family fun event hosted by the Hispano chamber of Valencia county to raise funds to provide scholarships to students while preserving Valencia county traditions by promoting and enhancing local business development through civic, social, cultural and employment training programs; and

WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the famous Tome land grant, which the king of Spain granted to thirty families in 1739; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas was founded by Spaniards in the seventeenth century; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas has been identified as New Mexico's second-fastest growing community, with expansive population growth; and

WHEREAS, the population growth of the village of Los Lunas holds a significant role in New Mexico's expanding and competitive economic landscape and is a catalyst for major

1 industrial manufacturing, technological and economic
2 development in Valencia county; and

3 WHEREAS, Belen is officially known as "Nuestra Señora de
4 Belen", or "Our Lady of Belen"; and

5 WHEREAS, Belen means "Bethlehem" in Spanish; and

6 WHEREAS, Belen was a strategic point along the Camino
7 Real, also known as the "Royal Road", which carved a trade
8 route south into Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, Belen has gained the nickname "hub city"
10 because of the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa
11 Fe railway, now known as the BNSF railway company; and

12 WHEREAS, the original pre-1937 United States route 66
13 runs through the heart of Valencia county; and

14 WHEREAS, Bosque Farms was a destination for relocated
15 dust bowl refugees; and

16 WHEREAS, Bosque Farms strives to be a sparsely
17 populated, agricultural community; and

18 WHEREAS, Peralta was the site of a minor engagement
19 during the American civil war; and

20 WHEREAS, Rio Communities is home to Valencia county's
21 only golf course, Tierra del Sol; and

22 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to the decalogue stone,
23 which contains an inscription that is interpreted to be an
24 abridged version of the ten commandments in a form of the
25 Paleo-Hebrew alphabet; and

1 WHEREAS, Valencia county houses two museums, the Belen
2 Harvey house museum and the Los Lunas museum of heritage and
3 arts; and

4 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to parts of the Cibola
5 national forest and the Manzano wilderness; and

6 WHEREAS, Valencia county is renowned for its
7 agriculture;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 30,
10 2024 be declared "Valencia County Day" in the house of
11 representatives; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the mayors of Belen, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms,
14 Peralta and Rio Communities and the chair of the board of
15 county commissioners of Valencia county. _____

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