

A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING FEBRUARY 5, 2013 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 United States, and the matanza is a symbol of the rich Spanish heritage of the Rio Grande valley; 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, Belen is officially known as "Nuestra Señora de Belen", or "Our Lady of Belen"; and

WHEREAS, Belen means "Bethlehem" in Spanish; and

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

WHEREAS, Belen has gained the nickname "hub city" because of the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway, now known as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the newly incorporated Rio Communities is home to Valencia county's only golf course, Tierra del Sol; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Valencia county is renowned for its agriculture;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 5, 2013 be commemorated as "Valencia County Day" in the house of representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the mayors of Belen, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms, Peralta and Rio Communities.