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HOUSE MEMORIAL 27

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

DECLARING JANUARY 28, 2026 THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL "GRANT COUNTY DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Grant county is known for its mining, ranching and art communities; blend of Hispanic, Native American and Anglo cultures; blue skies with three hundred sixty days of sunshine per year; vast mountain landscapes; and small-town atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, Grant county is the gateway to the vast Gila wilderness; and

WHEREAS, Grant county's largest city and county seat, Silver City, is the only municipality in New Mexico still operating under the territorial charter issued by the legislative assembly of the territory of New Mexico in 1878; and

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1 WHEREAS, Grant county is the richest county for mining in
2 New Mexico, producing numerous precious metals, including
3 copper, an essential element of green energy and electric
4 vehicles, which is mined from the third-largest open-pit copper
5 mine in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, Grant county is home to western New Mexico
7 university, established in 1893 as New Mexico's only applied
8 liberal arts and sciences university; and

9 WHEREAS, western New Mexico university leads the state in
10 designing education and training programs specific to the
11 evolving needs of a globalized economy, and as one of the
12 original Hispanic-serving institutions in the United States,
13 western New Mexico university is the southwest's hub of
14 Hispanic traditions, languages and music, while providing
15 life-changing education and training opportunities to Hispanic
16 students from across the globe; and

17 WHEREAS, the nationally recognized university ensemble,
18 mariachi plata de western New Mexico university, is celebrating
19 its tenth anniversary in 2026; and

20 WHEREAS, Grant county is known for its true west history
21 that includes prehistoric Native Americans; the Chiricahua
22 Apache, including Geronimo and Victorio, two famous Apache
23 leaders; and iconic wild west figures such as Billy the Kid,
24 lawman Dan Tucker and Madam Millie; and

25 WHEREAS, Grant county is where, in 1866, company B of the
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1 one hundred twenty-fifth United States colored infantry
2 regiment, known as the buffalo soldiers, was established at
3 Fort Bayard; and

4 WHEREAS, Grant county is honored as the home of many
5 veterans, and Grant county shares New Mexico's heavy burden of
6 the members of New Mexico's two hundredth coast artillery
7 regiment, many of whom were subjected to the Bataan death
8 march, including the late Representative Thomas Foy; and

9 WHEREAS, Grant county straddles the Continental Divide
10 national scenic trail at six thousand to seven thousand feet,
11 providing cool summers, as well as uninterrupted views of the
12 Mexican border to the south; and

13 WHEREAS, Grant county hosts the annual tour of the Gila,
14 New Mexico's premier cycling stage race, which attracts
15 national and international teams and boosts awareness and use
16 of the trail of the Mountain Spirits national scenic byway; and

17 WHEREAS, Grant county is home to significant outdoor
18 recreation areas, including the Catwalk recreation area, City
19 of Rocks state park, the trail of the Mountain Spirits national
20 scenic byway, Bear Canyon reservoir and lake Roberts; and

21 WHEREAS, Grant county has many well-known festivals,
22 including the blues festival, clay festival, tamal fiesta y
23 mas, festival of the written word and southwest print fiesta;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the Grant county prospectors honor and recognize

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1 the longtime mayor of Hurley, Joseph Edward "Ed" Stevens, who
2 died on December 8, 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico's current lieutenant governor, Howie
4 Morales, is from Grant county;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 28,
7 2026 be declared the fiftieth annual "Grant County Day" in the
8 house of representatives; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ed Stevens and Howie Morales
10 be recognized and honored for their many years of service to
11 the people of New Mexico; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the members of the board of county commissioners
14 of Grant county.

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