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HOUSE MEMORIAL 48

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 4, 2026 "VALENCIA COUNTY DAY" IN THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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

WHEREAS, in 1739, the king of Spain granted the famous
town of Tome land grant-merced to thirty families, establishing
a foundational community in what is now Valencia county; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas was founded by Spaniards
in the eighteenth century and has grown to become one of New
Mexico's fastest-growing communities; and

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

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1 WHEREAS, Belen later became known as "the hub city" due to
2 the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway,
3 now known as the BNSF railway company; and

4 WHEREAS, Belen is home to the BNSF railway fuel station,
5 which is the busiest BNSF fuel station in the nation and plays
6 a critical role in supporting the transport of goods across the
7 country, reinforcing the city's importance as a major hub for
8 logistics and commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, the town of Peralta is a historically significant
10 agricultural community founded along the Camino Real and named
11 for the Spanish explorer Don Pedro de Peralta; and

12 WHEREAS, Peralta has a rich historical legacy as the site
13 of the 1862 battle of Peralta, a notable engagement during the
14 American Civil War; and

15 WHEREAS, the village of Bosque Farms became a destination
16 for relocated dust bowl refugees and was incorporated as a
17 municipality in 1974; and

18 WHEREAS, Bosque Farms has a strong agricultural heritage,
19 with dairy production emerging as a key industry by the 1960s,
20 making the area known as "the heart of the Rio Grande
21 dairyland"; and

22 WHEREAS, the city of Rio Communities is known for its
23 official slogan, "spectacular views, endless opportunities",
24 highlighting the community's natural beauty and future-focused
25 vision; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2025, Rio Communities demonstrated its
2 commitment to infrastructure with the dedication of Founders
3 way, a new bypass road that is noted locally as one of the
4 fastest-completed roadway construction projects in Valencia
5 county history; and

6 WHEREAS, the original pre-1937 United States route 66 runs
7 through the heart of Valencia county, carrying travelers
8 through Los Lunas, Peralta and Isleta along present-day New
9 Mexico state road 314 and Main street/New Mexico state road 6,
10 shaping early trade, cultural exchange and economic
11 development; and

12 WHEREAS, Los Lunas will proudly celebrate its role in the
13 pre-1937 United States route 66 alignment as part of the United
14 States route 66 centennial observance in 2026, recognizing its
15 impact on local businesses and community growth; and

16 WHEREAS, Valencia county proudly recognizes the Pueblo of
17 Isleta for its deep historical and cultural significance,
18 honoring its enduring contributions to the region's heritage,
19 identity and vitality; and

20 WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the largest
21 matanza in the world, a symbol of the rich Spanish heritage of
22 the Rio Grande valley, hosted annually by the Hispano chamber
23 of Valencia county to preserve traditions, promote local
24 businesses and raise funds for scholarships; and

25 WHEREAS, the greater Valencia county chamber of commerce
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1 has played a pivotal role in driving business growth and
2 expansion in the region by fostering collaboration among local
3 businesses, providing valuable resources and supporting
4 initiatives that enhance economic development and community
5 prosperity; and

6 WHEREAS, Valencia county has emerged as a driver of
7 technological advancement, innovation and economic growth in
8 New Mexico with the highest number of manufacturers per capita
9 in the state, including major employers such as Meta, Amazon,
10 Arcosa, Colorcon, Wall Colmonoy and the Pacific Fusion build
11 center, fueling job creation and regional prosperity; and

12 WHEREAS, Los Lunas and Valencia county continue to serve
13 as a growing economic hub in central New Mexico, supported by
14 pro-business policies, population growth, expanding industries
15 and innovative development that strengthen the state's national
16 and global competitiveness;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 4,
19 2026 be proclaimed "Valencia County Day" in the house of
20 representatives; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the mayors of the city of Belen, the village of
23 Los Lunas, the village of Bosque Farms, the town of Peralta and
24 the city of Rio Communities and the chair of the board of
25 county commissioners of Valencia county.

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