

HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

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

INTRODUCED BY

Harlan Vincent

A MEMORIAL

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

WHEREAS, Lincoln county is nationally recognized for its iconic history, outdoor recreation and strong rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln county's story reflects the complexity of the American west, shaped by generations of neighbors, including the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and by the historic movements of peoples and cultures across the region; and

WHEREAS, the post-Civil War era brought rapid growth to the region, and by the mid-1870s, competing business and political interests intensified conflicts over land, water and power, culminating in the events historically known as the

1 Lincoln county war; and

2 WHEREAS, the Lincoln county war remains one of the most  
3 widely known chapters of New Mexico history, drawing visitors  
4 from around the world and contributing to the county's heritage  
5 tourism and educational programming; and

6 WHEREAS, in the spring of 1950, during the Capitan Gap  
7 fire, a bear cub was rescued by firefighters and became known  
8 as "Smokey Bear", a lasting symbol of wildfire prevention and a  
9 point of pride for Lincoln county; and

10 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's legacy continues at Smokey Bear  
11 historical park in the village of Capitan, providing education,  
12 tourism and community identity for residents and visitors  
13 alike; and

14 WHEREAS, the mountains, forests and waterways of Lincoln  
15 county continue to sustain communities, support ranching and  
16 agriculture and drive a year-round outdoor economy that  
17 includes hiking, camping, skiing, fishing and hunting; and

18 WHEREAS, Lincoln county is home to Ruidoso Downs race  
19 track, an important part of the county's economy and culture  
20 and a hub for quarter horse racing, including the all American  
21 futurity, which attracts visitors, supports local businesses  
22 and creates jobs; and

23 WHEREAS, as the community continues recovery efforts,  
24 there is strong optimism for the racetrack's reopening and a  
25 return to racing that will restore a key gathering place for

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1 families, visitors and the local workforce and renew an  
2 important driver of economic activity across the region; and

3 WHEREAS, Lincoln county's economy is strengthened by  
4 tourism, outdoor recreation, agriculture and small businesses  
5 that provide essential services and opportunities for families  
6 across the county; and

7 WHEREAS, in recent years, Lincoln county communities have  
8 faced significant challenges, including natural disasters that  
9 affected homes, businesses and public infrastructure, and  
10 residents, first responders, volunteers and partner  
11 organizations have worked together with determination to  
12 recover and rebuild; and

13 WHEREAS, Lincoln county continues to invest in community  
14 resilience, public safety and quality of life while preserving  
15 its history and expanding opportunities for future generations;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Lincoln county  
18 be recognized as a central part of New Mexico's heritage and a  
19 vital contributor to the state's economy and identity,  
20 celebrated for its history, its outdoor landscapes, its quarter  
21 horse racing tradition, its agricultural roots and the  
22 resilience of its communities; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 4, 2026 be declared  
24 "Lincoln County Day" in the house of representatives; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the Lincoln county board of county  
2 commissioners.

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