1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 53
2	45th legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Ben D. Altamirano
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	RECOGNIZING ELFEGO BACA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO'S
12	HERI TAGE.
13	
14	WHEREAS, Elfego Baca was a gunfighter, lawman, marshal,
15	attorney, politician, private detective, school superintendent,
16	mayor, county clerk and district attorney; and
17	WHEREAS, Elfego Baca was most of all a champion for the
18	underdog and a staunch defender of justice; and
19	WHEREAS, born in the tumultuous year of 1865, Elfego Baca
20	entered this world with a thump, so the story goes, while his
21	mother was jumping for the ball in a baseball game; and
22	WHEREAS, at the age of nineteen, Elfego Baca, a sheriff's
23	deputy in Socorro, rode one hundred thirty miles to San
24	Francisco Plaza, a small town now called Reserve, to deal with
25	
	. 136857. 1

l

dozens and dozens of cowboys who were making things difficult for the Mexicans in that settlement; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Baca arrested one cowboy and, when other cowboys tried to free the prisoner, he engaged the others in a shootout in which one cowboy was wounded and another killed when that cowboy fell from his horse; and

WHEREAS, following that incident, Baca was forced to hole himself up in a "jacal" and defend himself by shooting through the rafters as some eighty cowboys poured bullets into the hut and later tried to burn it down; and

WHEREAS, Elfego Baca held off the cowboys for thirty-six hours, killing four men and injuring another eight until he finally surrendered to Deputy Sheriff Frank Rose; and

WHEREAS, during his trial on murder charges, the door of the "jacal", reportedly peppered with four hundred bullet holes, was submitted as evidence, which helped lead to Baca's acquittal; and

WHEREAS, he has been the subject of a Walt Disney television series entitled "The Nine Lives of Elfego Baca", books and many histories of the time period; and

WHEREAS, as a legend in his own lifetime and a folk hero after his death at the age of eighty, Elfego Baca stands as a picturesque character, a man who was more than a gunfighter and ruffian but a man whose eventful life in the time of the settlement of the old west stands as a testament to championing . 136857.1

<u>underscored mterial = new</u> [bracketed mterial] = delete 1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

- 2 -

	1	the poor and the Hispanic citizens of the state of New Mexico;
	2	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
	3	STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it extend its recognition of Elfego
	4	Baca for his dedication to the state of New Mexico and take
	5	pride in his part of the history of the old west.
	6	- 3 -
	7	
	8	
	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	
	13	
	14	
	15	
	16	
<u>new</u> dalata	17	
new Jal	18	
	19	
<u>eria</u> Pial	20	
underscored mterial [husekatad mtanial]	21	
<u>bred</u>	22	
<u>rscc</u>	23	
unde Theo	24	
- 14	- 25	
		. 136857. 1

l