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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 87

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

A JOINT MEMORIAL

ESTABLISHING ITALIAN AMERICAN DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE IN 2002 IN
RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITALIANS AND ITALIAN
AMERICANS TO THE COUNTRY AND TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Italians, like Amerigo Vespucci and Christopher
Columbus, were some of the first explorers to discover the
American continents and to illustrate the geography; and

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian Americans have made great
contributions to America's society, economically, culturally
and politically; and

WHEREAS, Italian Americans have won prestigious prizes,
such as the Nobel prize, the Pritzker award for architecture
and the Fields medal for mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian Americans invented pianos,

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1 violins, calendars, radios, telescopes, compasses, microscopes,
2 thermometers, eyeglasses, steam engines, typewriters and
3 batteries; and

4 WHEREAS, a great many Americans have enjoyed the
5 entertainment provided by Italian Americans, such as hall of
6 fame baseball player Joe DiMaggio, singer and songwriter Frank
7 Sinatra, world-renowned composer Henry Mancini and Oscar-
8 winning actor Robert DeNiro; and

9 WHEREAS, great Italian American political figures, such as
10 Fiorella La Guardia, who was both mayor of, then congressman
11 from, New York City; Anthony Celebrezze who, in the Kennedy
12 administration, was the first Italian American cabinet member;
13 and Antonin Scalia who, in 1982, became the first Italian
14 American supreme court justice, have enriched the political
15 process and brought national pride to our country; and

16 WHEREAS, over five million four hundred thousand Italians
17 immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1991, which
18 today has resulted in over twenty-six million Americans of
19 Italian descent in the United States, making them the fifth
20 largest ethnic group; and

21 WHEREAS, in New Mexico during the early part of the
22 immigration period described, many Italian immigrants worked in
23 the mining industry and were instrumental in its development
24 and growth; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico's history and diversity have been

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1 greatly enriched by the participation of its Italian American
2 citizens; and

3 WHEREAS, there have been and continue to be outstanding
4 contributions to the politics, culture and economy of New
5 Mexico by its Italian American population;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 1, 2002 be designated as
8 "Italian American Day at the Legislature" in recognition of the
9 contributions of Italian Americans to the greatness of our
10 state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate program of
12 activities be scheduled by the legislature for that date.

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