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## SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 75

## 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003 INTRODUCED BY

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## A JOINT MEMORIAL

ESTABLISHING "ITALIAN AMERICAN DAY" AT THE LEGISLATURE IN 2003
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 American 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, violins, calendars, radios, telescopes, compasses, microscopes, . 145918.1

thermometers, eyeglasses, steam engines, typewriters and batteries; and

WHEREAS, a great many Americans have enjoyed the entertainment provided by Italian Americans, such as hall of fame baseball player Joe Di Maggio, singer and songwriter Frank Sinatra, world-renowned composer Henry Mancini and Oscarwinning actor Robert DeNiro; and

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

WHEREAS, Senator Pete Domenici is not only the longest serving Italian American senator ever to serve in the United States senate, but he is also the longest-serving New Mexico senator; and

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

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, during the early part of that immigration period, many Italian immigrants worked in the .145918.1

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mining industry and were instrumental in its development and growth; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's history and diversity have been greatly enriched by the participation of its Italian American citizens: and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 11, 2003 be designated as "Italian American Day" at the legislature in recognition of the contributions of Italian Americans, including our own United States Senator Pete Domenici, to the greatness of our state; and

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

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