SENATE J O NT MEMORI AL 93
46th legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRSt session, 2003
I NTRODUCED BY
Richard M. Romero

A J OINT MEMDRI AL
RECOGNI ZI NG GASPAR PEREZ DE VI LLAGRA FOR HIS EPI C POEM HI STORI A DE LA NUEVA MEXI CO, AND FOR HIS CONTRI BUTI ON TO PRESERVI NG THE HI STORY OF THE EARLY SPANI SH SETTLEMENT OF NEW MEXI CO.

WHEREAS, in 1555, Gaspar Perez de Villagra was born in Nueva Espana, was educated in Europe and graduated fromthe uni versity of Sal amanca; and

WHEREAS, Villagra ret urned to New Spai n and joi ned Don Juan de Onate's entrada, one of the last territorial expansions of the Spani sh empi re; and

WHEREAS, Villagra, who was one of Onate's captai ns, I ater wrote the first published history of New Mexi co after he ret urned to Spai n in 1610; and

WHEREAS, hi s experi ence of the ent rada became the subject
of his epi c poem Hi storia de Ia Nueva Mexi co; and WHEREAS, the poem recounts the 1598 expedition and the establishment of the first permanent European settlement in what is today New Mexi co; and

WHEREAS, Hi storia de Ia Nueva Mexi co precedes Captain John Smith's General History of Virginia by at least fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, the poemis written with passion and thousands of documents available in Spai $n$ and Mexi co verify its hi storical accur acy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEG SLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXI CO that Gaspar Perez De Villagr a be recogni zed for his epic poem Historia de la Nueva Mexi co, and for his contribution to preserving the history of the early Spani sh settlement of New Mexico.

- 2 -

