1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 93
2	46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Richard M. Romero
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	RECOGNIZING GASPAR PEREZ DE VILLAGRA FOR HIS EPIC POEM,
12	HISTORIA DE LA NUEVA MEXICO, AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO
13	PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY SPANISH SETTLEMENT OF NEW
14	MEXI CO.
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16	WHEREAS, in 1555, Gaspar Perez de Villagra was born in
17	Nueva Espana, was educated in Europe and graduated from the
18	university of Salamanca; and
19	WHEREAS, Villagra returned to New Spain and joined Don
20	Juan de Onate's entrada, one of the last territorial expansions
21	of the Spanish empire; and
22	WHEREAS, Villagra, who was one of Onate's captains, later
23	wrote the first published history of New Mexico after he
24	returned to Spain in 1610; and
25	WHEREAS, his experience of the entrada became the subject
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of his epic poem, Historia de la Nueva Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the poem recounts the 1598 expedition and the establishment of the first permanent European settlement in what is today New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Historia de la Nueva Mexico precedes Captain John Smith's General History of Virginia by at least fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, the poem is written with passion and thousands of documents available in Spain and Mexico verify its historical accuracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Gaspar Perez De Villagra be recognized for his epic poem, *Historia de la Nueva Mexico*, and for his contribution to preserving the history of the early Spanish settlement of New Mexico.

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