

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS
3 DURING THE NEW DEAL AND DECLARING MARCH 7, 2005 AS "NATIVE
4 AMERICAN NEW DEAL ART DAY" AT THE LEGISLATURE.

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6 WHEREAS, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt initiated
7 New Deal emergency programs in 1933 designed to boost the
8 national economy and help bring the country out of the great
9 depression; and

10 WHEREAS, artists created work of significant artistic,
11 cultural and historical value under federal sponsorship
12 through the New Deal's various public art projects; and

13 WHEREAS, New Deal funds were used to promote Indian arts
14 and crafts, increase employment, improve infrastructure on
15 reservations and construct schools; and

16 WHEREAS, a national exhibit of artwork completed under
17 the public works of art project was held at the Corcoran
18 gallery of art in Washington, D.C., in 1934 that included
19 works of art from New Mexico, two-thirds of which were
20 Indian-made and featured Navajo rugs, mural paintings and
21 pottery; and

22 WHEREAS, the department of the interior building in the
23 nation's capital, constructed between 1935 and 1936, houses
24 important murals by three of New Mexico's most notable Indian
25 artists, Velino Shije Herrera, Allan Houser and Gerald

1 Nailor, along with Oklahoma artist Woodrow Crumbo; and

2 WHEREAS, despite some shortcomings, President
3 Roosevelt's New Deal arts programs increased the awareness
4 and appreciation of Native American art in the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, many Native Americans took part in the arts
6 programs, including Harrison Begay, Maria and Julian
7 Martinez, Tonita Pena and her son, Joe H. Herrera and Pablita
8 Velarde; and

9 WHEREAS, numerous public buildings throughout the state
10 house Native American works of art that were produced as part
11 of the New Deal arts programs; and

12 WHEREAS, many works of art produced during that time
13 have been lost, misplaced or destroyed; and

14 WHEREAS, many of the artists are no longer with us today
15 or cannot be located; and

16 WHEREAS, the arts programs recorded and presented the
17 essence of New Mexico geographically, culturally,
18 artistically, architecturally, agriculturally and
19 environmentally;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 7, 2005 be designated as
22 "Native American New Deal Art Day" at the legislature; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it recognize Pablita Velarde
24 and Harrison Begay, the two living representatives of the
25 group of New Deal artists; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it honor the memory of New
2 Mexico's other Native American New Deal artists through their
3 families present at the legislature; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work of these artists be
5 commemorated and celebrated as among the greatest
6 accomplishments of this state, particularly when considering
7 the economic circumstances under which they were created; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature celebrate
9 the lives and contributions of those fine artists and strive
10 to preserve their accomplishments to share them with future
11 generations as a message of beauty and hope; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the copies of this memorial
13 be transmitted to Native American New Deal artists and their
14 families. _____

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