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SENATE MEMORIAL 58

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PUEBLO OF ZIA TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE USE OF ITS SACRED AND RELIGIOUS TRIBAL SYMBOL KNOWN AS THE "ZIA SUN SYMBOL" ON THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in the early 1920s, the local chapter of the daughters of the American revolution, backed by several women's clubs, decided that the state of New Mexico needed a flag that was more representative of New Mexico's unique character and initiated a design contest; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry Mera won the contest with a flag that incorporated colors and patterns from both Indian and Spanish traditions; and

WHEREAS, to symbolize New Mexico's tradition of cultural diversity, Dr. Mera adapted the sacred sun symbol from a Pueblo of Zia vase and adorned it with the red and gold colors of King

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1 Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain; and

2 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico, through its legislative
3 process, formally adopted the flag with the sacred Zia sun
4 symbol in 1925, and it has continuously flown over the state
5 since that time, displaying a symbol of "perfect friendship
6 among united cultures"; and

7 WHEREAS, all accounts of the flag explicitly acknowledge
8 the origin of the design as an ancient symbol of the Zia
9 people; and

10 WHEREAS, the Zia sun symbol has been continuously
11 commercialized and utilized over the years by private interests
12 that have recognized its commercial value and adopted it for
13 their own benefit; and

14 WHEREAS, harmony among New Mexico's cultures and the
15 mutual respect toward traditions and sacred symbols need to be
16 strengthened in order to close the circle of unity;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
18 OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge the Zia sun symbol as an
19 "ancient and sacred symbol of the Zia people"; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate express its
21 appreciation to the Pueblo of Zia as the state celebrates the
22 one hundredth anniversary of statehood; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state work in
24 collaboration with the Pueblo of Zia to develop alternative
25 ways of establishing reconciliation, mutual understanding and

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1 cooperation with respect to the use of the sacred Zia sun
2 symbol; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the governor of the Pueblo of Zia and the
5 governor of New Mexico.

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