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HOUSE MEMORIAL 29

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

INTRODUCED BY

Nora Espinoza

A MEMORIAL

LAUDING NEW MEXICO'S LONG HISTORY OF RACIAL AND CULTURAL  
DIVERSITY AND COOPERATION.

WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico promote the spirit of  
diversity-with-harmony represented by the various cultures that  
make up the fabric of the state and of American society; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's special blend of cultures engenders  
in its residents an exceptional tolerance and respect for  
people of all races and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is justly proud of its national  
reputation for racial and ethnic harmony, exemplified by its  
numerous cultures; and

WHEREAS, through architecture, music, food, arts and  
crafts, religious expression, holidays and other cultural  
events, New Mexicans share and celebrate the lives and

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1 histories of each other; and

2 WHEREAS, children are taught from kindergarten on about  
3 the importance to the state and nation of the contributions  
4 made by New Mexico's Native Americans, Hispanics, Europeans,  
5 African Americans and people of other races, ethnicities and  
6 nationalities; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico's rich history is made up of  
8 individuals from diverse ethnicities, races and cultures, often  
9 working in concert for the betterment of the state and nation,  
10 including: the pueblo farmers who taught newcomers how to farm  
11 in the desert; the Spanish, Mexican and American traders who  
12 braved the rigors and dangers of El Camino Real and the Santa  
13 Fe Trail to bring progress and prosperity to the territory; the  
14 nameless vaqueros and cowboys tending cattle on haciendas and  
15 ranches; the hundreds of famous artists and writers who told of  
16 the wonders of New Mexico in paint and words; Robert  
17 Oppenheimer and the secret Los Alamos scientists from around  
18 the world who worked to split the atom and usher in a new  
19 world; the Navajo code talkers who saved countless American  
20 lives at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and every other  
21 area of battle in the Pacific theater between 1942 and 1945;  
22 Harrison Schmidt, the last astronaut to step onto the moon; and  
23 all of the ordinary citizens who love and support their  
24 families, their neighbors and their communities; and

25 WHEREAS, at statehood, New Mexico recognized its Spanish-

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1 speaking citizens and wanted to ensure their full participation  
2 in government, so it required that state laws be published in  
3 English and Spanish for the first twenty years of statehood and  
4 requires, still, that constitutional amendments be published in  
5 English and Spanish, as well as, when possible, indigenous and  
6 other languages; and

7 WHEREAS, the constitution of New Mexico protects the  
8 educational rights of children of Spanish descent and, although  
9 instruction in public schools is to be conducted in English,  
10 the constitution requires that the legislature provide for the  
11 training of teachers so that they may be proficient in both the  
12 English and Spanish languages; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico has had a long and proud history of  
14 being at the forefront of celebrating diversity and expanding  
15 human rights for all of its residents; and

16 WHEREAS, as we try to teach children the importance of  
17 moral and ethical actions and the necessity for civility in  
18 civil discourse, it behooves us all to embody the  
19 characteristics we hope our children will emulate; and

20 WHEREAS, there is no place in civil or personal discourse  
21 for racial or ethnic epithets or slurs;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it celebrate  
24 the state's long-standing racial, ethnic and cultural  
25 diversity.

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