

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., TO ADVOCATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE NATIONAL "NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY" AS A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

WHEREAS, Native Americans were the original inhabitants of the land that is now the United States; and

WHEREAS, historically and today, the experience of many of those original inhabitants and their descendants is characterized by devastation and misfortune; and

WHEREAS, the Native American legacy and Native American contemporary life are reflected by attributes and achievements that have enriched this country's cultural, artistic, economic, social, religious and political landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans' historic and contemporary experiences and their substantial enrichment of this country deserve attention; and

WHEREAS, many states have honored Native American heritage by designating a day to honor Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the United States government established the fourth Friday of every year as national "Native American Heritage Day"; and

WHEREAS, the designation of "Native American Heritage Day" as a legal public holiday would provide more opportunity

for programs and events that educate all Americans about the United States' indigenous cultures, correct misunderstandings about Native Americans perpetuated by media and underscore the importance of respect for all people; and

WHEREAS, the federal declaration of "Native American Heritage Day" as a legal public holiday would prompt states to take similar measures to observe the holiday, thereby encouraging widespread commemoration of Native American history and celebration of Native American contributions to the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to advocate in congress for making "Native American Heritage Day" a legal public holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.