

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE TRAGEDY OF THE 1980 PRISON RIOT AT THE  
3 PENITENTIARY OF NEW MEXICO, THE INMATES WHOSE LIVES WERE LOST  
4 AND THE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WHO WERE HELD HOSTAGE AND  
5 EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S COMMITMENT TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM  
6 THAT RESULTS IN GREATER PUBLIC SAFETY.

7  
8 WHEREAS, from February 2 to February 4, 1980, the  
9 penitentiary of New Mexico was the site of what remains one of  
10 the most savage and deadly prison riots in this nation's  
11 history; and

12 WHEREAS, a combination of overcrowding, lack of  
13 programs, poor living conditions and unsatisfactory food led  
14 to the riot and the ensuing thirty-six-hour siege of the  
15 prison; and

16 WHEREAS, during those horrific hours, thirty-three  
17 inmates were killed and at least ninety were seriously injured  
18 by fellow inmates, and fourteen corrections officers were held  
19 hostage, assaulted or injured by rioting inmates; and

20 WHEREAS, in the three decades since the 1980 New Mexico  
21 prison riot, the corrections department, under the current  
22 leadership of Secretary of Corrections Gregg Marcantel, has  
23 worked to ensure that the combination of conditions that led  
24 to the riot is never created again and that inmates are  
25 provided with the proper balance of social control and support

1 and given the best opportunity possible to successfully  
2 integrate into society, not re-offend and become contributing  
3 taxpayers rather than tax liabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that a properly  
5 functioning corrections system is one that safely and  
6 humanely incarcerates those persons who must be separated  
7 from society and educates, trains and supports the  
8 overwhelming number of inmates who will return to society;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, in recognition that inmates are people, that  
11 the state bears the ultimate responsibility for their safety  
12 while in custody and that the primary purpose of  
13 incarceration must be to rehabilitate rather than to punish,  
14 the names of the inmates who were killed in the 1980 riot are  
15 hereby recognized: Michael Briones, age twenty-two;  
16 Lawrence Cardon, age twenty-four; Nick Coca, age thirty;  
17 Richard Fierro, age twenty-six; James Foley, age nineteen;  
18 Donald Gossens, age twenty-three; Phillip Hernandez, age  
19 thirty; Valentino Jaramillo, age thirty-five; Kelly Johnson,  
20 age twenty-six; Steven Lucero, age twenty-five; Joe Madrid,  
21 age thirty-eight; Ramon Madrid, age forty; Archie Martinez,  
22 age twenty-five; Joseph Mirabal, age twenty-four; Ben Moreno,  
23 age twenty; Gilbert Moreno, age twenty-five; Thomas O'Meara,  
24 age twenty-five; Filiberto Ortega, age twenty-five;  
25 Frank Ortega, age twenty; Paulina Paul, age thirty-six;

1 James Perrin, age thirty-four; Robert Quintela, age  
2 twenty-nine; Robert Rivera, age twenty-eight; Vincent Romero,  
3 age thirty-four; Herman Russell, age twenty-six;  
4 Juan Sanchez, age twenty-two; Frankie Sedillo, age  
5 thirty-one; Larry Smith, age thirty-one; Leo Tenorio, age  
6 twenty-five; Thomas Tenorio, age twenty-eight; Mario Urioste,  
7 age twenty-eight; Danny Waller, age twenty-six; and  
8 Russell Werner, age twenty-two; and

9 WHEREAS, in recognition that corrections officers are  
10 among the bravest, most dedicated public servants and face  
11 some of the most difficult working conditions, the names of  
12 the corrections officers who were taken hostage during the  
13 1980 prison riot while in service to the people of New Mexico  
14 are hereby recognized: Captain Greg Roybal,  
15 Lieutenant Jose Anaya, Medical Technician Ross Maez and  
16 Corrections Officers Victor Gallegos, Elton Curry,  
17 Juan Bustos, Michael Hernandez, Ronnie Martinez,  
18 Michael Schmitt, Valentin Martinez, Antonio Vigil,  
19 Larry Mendoza, Edward Ortega and Ramon Gutierrez; and

20 WHEREAS, the corrections department's commitment to  
21 ensuring that the conditions that led to the riot never exist  
22 again is an integral part of the corrections department's  
23 philosophy, particularly under the leadership of  
24 Secretary Marcantel, and has manifested itself in everything  
25 from the continuing revitalization of the prison building,

1 "Old Main", to support for meaningful inmate programming; and

2 WHEREAS, the legislature's commitment has manifested  
3 itself in support for broad and innovative reforms of the  
4 criminal justice system through the creation of the criminal  
5 justice reform subcommittee;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the tragedy of the 1980 prison riot  
8 at the penitentiary of New Mexico and the men who were  
9 killed, injured and taken hostage during the riot not be  
10 forgotten; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department's  
12 commitment to increasing public safety through lower  
13 recidivism rates and improved rehabilitation of inmates be  
14 commended; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate express its  
16 support for meaningful criminal justice reform that results  
17 in increased public safety and tax savings; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that continued awareness of the  
19 1980 prison riot and the events leading up to it serve to  
20 strengthen the commitment of government leaders to advocate  
21 for the fundamental rights and dignity of all, including  
22 crime victims, correctional professionals and each inmate  
23 assigned to the responsibility of the state; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the governor and the corrections

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