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HOUSE MEMORIAL 91

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING MARCH 6, 2015 "ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, there are more than thirty thousand Asians living in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Asians are among the fastest-growing minority groups in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Asians in New Mexico come from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Asians have worked on the railroads and in agriculture in New Mexico since the nineteenth century and fought bravely in World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War and in Afghanistan and Iraq and

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1 have received Congressional Medals of Honor, Purple Hearts and
2 other military commendations; and

3 WHEREAS, this year represents the fiftieth anniversary of
4 the passage of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of
5 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the
6 foot of the statue of liberty on October 3, 1965; and

7 WHEREAS, prior to passage of the Immigration and
8 Nationality Act of 1965, Asians were greatly affected by the
9 Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, which restricted
10 immigration of Chinese laborers and forbade the naturalization
11 of Chinese immigrants; and

12 WHEREAS, Asians also were affected by the Immigration Act
13 of 1917, which designated an "Asiatic barred zone" of much of
14 eastern Asia and the Pacific islands from which people could
15 not immigrate; and

16 WHEREAS, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
17 enabled Chinese family reunification, civil rights and equal
18 protection under the law that had been denied for over sixty
19 years; and

20 WHEREAS, the law linked persons of Chinese descent to all
21 American minorities and the basic founding principle of the
22 United States: that all persons are created equal; and

23 WHEREAS, Asians have contributed greatly to the economy of
24 New Mexico with their labor, industry, businesses and
25 purchasing power; and

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