

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 122

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CULTURAL
12 AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO STUDY AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
13 MEMORIALIZING AND PRESERVING THE BIRTHPLACE OF DOLORES HUERTA.

14
15 WHEREAS, activist and labor leader Dolores Fernandez,
16 better known as Dolores Huerta, was born April 10, 1930 in
17 Dawson, New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta is a Mexican-American social
19 activist and labor leader who has spent a lifetime representing
20 those who do not have power or a voice; and

21 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's own experiences of
22 discrimination and her innate sense of justice and a desire to
23 help others led her to join forces with Cesar Chavez; and

24 WHEREAS, together, through nonviolent protest and a
25 nationally and internationally successful grape strike, they

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1 changed the way people who were striking were treated; and

2 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta worked to improve social and
3 economic conditions for farm workers and to fight
4 discrimination; and

5 WHEREAS, to further her cause, Dolores Huerta created the
6 agricultural workers association in 1960 and co-founded what
7 would become the united farm workers; and

8 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta set up voter registration drives
9 and lobbied politicians to allow non-United States citizen
10 migrant workers to receive public assistance and pensions and
11 to provide Spanish-language voting ballots and driver's tests;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta, a skilled community organizer,
14 traveled from poverty to political victory and became the
15 second Mexican-American woman in history to be honored with the
16 presidential medal of freedom; and

17 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's birthplace, Dawson, is located
18 about seventeen miles northeast of Cimarron and was the site of
19 two separate coal mining disasters; and

20 WHEREAS, the mining town was abandoned and became a ghost
21 town in 1950; and

22 WHEREAS, legislators have expressed an interest in
23 preserving Dawson and possibly creating a museum; and

24 WHEREAS, Dolores has expressed support of lawmakers
25 seeking to restore her birthplace, while requesting that any

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1 effort should also focus on the labor history of the mining
2 town;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the general services department and the
5 cultural affairs department be requested to study and develop
6 recommendations for memorializing and preserving the birthplace
7 of Dolores Huerta; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the general services
9 department and the cultural affairs department be requested to
10 present their recommendations to the appropriate interim
11 legislative committee by October 1, 2019; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of general services, the secretary
14 of cultural affairs and Dolores Huerta.

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