

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE FIRST PUEBLO VOTER ACTIVIST, MIGUEL TRUJILLO,
3 AND RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE AUGUST 3,
4 2020 "MIGUEL TRUJILLO DAY" IN NEW MEXICO.

5
6 WHEREAS, Native American people of New Mexico were not
7 considered citizens of the United States in New Mexico until
8 1924; and

9 WHEREAS, the pueblo nations of New Mexico and Native
10 American people of New Mexico are proud to recognize that
11 August 3, 2018 marked the seventieth anniversary of Native
12 American voting rights in New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, native people were denied the right to vote in
14 New Mexico before 1948, and such denial was part of the
15 constitution of New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, enacted in 1912, the constitution of New Mexico
17 denied Native American New Mexicans suffrage based on Article
18 7, Section 1; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1948, Miguel Trujillo, member of the Pueblo
20 of Isleta and a United States marine veteran, challenged the
21 infringement on his ability to vote, and because of his
22 inability to lawfully cast his vote, brought a lawsuit in
23 federal court against the Valencia county registrar titled
24 *Trujillo v. Garley*; and

25 WHEREAS, on August 3, 1948, the three-judge federal

1 district court in *Trujillo v. Garley* found that New Mexico
2 had discriminated against Indians by restricting the vote on
3 the basis that Indians had paid all state and federal taxes
4 except private property taxes on the reservations:

5 "The New Mexico constitution says that Indians not taxed
6 may not vote, although they possess every other
7 qualification. We are unable to escape the conclusion
8 that under the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments
9 constitutes discrimination on the ground of race. Any
10 other citizen, regardless of race, in the state of New
11 Mexico who has not paid one cent of tax of any kind or
12 character, if he possesses the other qualifications, may
13 vote. An Indian, and only an Indian, in order to meet
14 the qualification of a vote must have paid a tax. How
15 can you escape the conclusion that makes a requirement
16 with respect to an Indian as a qualification to exercise
17 the elective franchise and does not make that
18 requirement to the member of any other race is beyond
19 me? I just feel that the conclusion is inescapable.";
20 and

21 WHEREAS, as a result of this ruling, Miguel Trujillo was
22 allowed to register to vote, thus setting a precedent for the
23 future of Native American voting rights in New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, it is important for the history of New Mexico
25 that the memory and legacy of Miguel Trujillo be honored and

1 that he be remembered as a hero in advancing the rights of
2 Native American voters; and

3 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Native American New
4 Mexico suffrage be taught in the New Mexico public schools
5 embracing the struggles and victory demonstrated by Miguel
6 Trujillo;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor
9 be requested to declare August 3, 2020 "Miguel Trujillo Day"
10 in New Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Miguel Trujillo be
12 recognized and honored as the first pueblo voter activist;
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of Indian affairs
16 and the twenty-three federally recognized Native American
17 tribes of New Mexico. _____

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