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SENATE MEMORIAL 23

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Joshua A. Sanchez and Gregory A. Baca and  
Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING FEBRUARY 6, 2023 AS "VALENCIA COUNTY DAY" IN THE  
SENATE.

WHEREAS, Valencia county is part of the Rio Abajo; and  
WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the largest  
matanza in the United States, and the matanza is a symbol of  
the rich Spanish heritage of the Rio Grande valley; and

WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the famous Tome  
land grant, which the king of Spain granted to thirty families  
in 1739; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas was founded by Spaniards  
in the seventeenth century; and

WHEREAS, Belen is officially known as "Nuestra Señora de  
Belen", or "Our Lady of Belen"; and

WHEREAS, Belen means "Bethlehem" in Spanish; and

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1           WHEREAS, Belen was a strategic point along the Camino  
2 Real, also known as the "Royal Road", which carved a trade  
3 route south into Mexico; and

4           WHEREAS, Belen has gained the nickname "hub city" because  
5 of the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe  
6 railway, now known as the BNSF railway company; and

7           WHEREAS, Bosque Farms was a destination for relocated dust  
8 bowl refugees; and

9           WHEREAS, Bosque Farms strives to be a sparsely populated,  
10 agricultural community; and

11           WHEREAS, Peralta was the site of a minor engagement during  
12 the American civil war; and

13           WHEREAS, Rio Communities is home to Valencia county's only  
14 golf course, Tierra del Sol; and

15           WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to the decalogue stone,  
16 which contains an inscription that is interpreted to be an  
17 abridged version of the ten commandments in a form of the  
18 Paleo-Hebrew alphabet; and

19           WHEREAS, Valencia county houses two museums, the Belen  
20 Harvey house museum and the Los Lunas museum of heritage and  
21 arts; and

22           WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to parts of the Cibola  
23 national forest and the Manzano wilderness; and

24           WHEREAS, Valencia county is renowned for its agriculture;  
25 and

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