

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 15  
2 44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Rick Miera  
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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 30, 1598, AS THE  
12 OFFICIAL DATE OF THE FIRST THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION EVER HELD  
13 BETWEEN INDIANS AND EUROPEANS IN WHAT IS TODAY THE UNITED  
14 STATES OF AMERICA.  
15

16 WHEREAS, after exasperating and expensive delays, in the  
17 spring of 1598, Juan de Onate led the first colonizing  
18 expedition into the northernmost reaches of La Nueva Espana  
19 today known as the southwestern United States of America; and

20 WHEREAS, Onate brought with him to the land that would be  
21 known as New Mexico an expedition of approximately five  
22 hundred colonists, including men, women and children, ten  
23 Franciscan priests and lay brothers; and

24 WHEREAS, now at the threshold of New Mexico, custom and  
25 law required that the occasion be marked by proper ritual,

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1 both secular and religious; and

2 WHEREAS, when they reached the banks of the Rio Bravo del  
3 Norte, today known as the Rio Grande, Juan de Onate proclaimed  
4 that the day had arrived for conducting a formal ceremony of  
5 thanksgiving to take possession of the new land; and

6 WHEREAS, Onate directed the construction of a spacious  
7 bower to serve as a chapel; and

8 WHEREAS, with everyone in attendance, a solemn high mass  
9 was celebrated; and

10 WHEREAS, Father Martinez delivered the sermon; and

11 WHEREAS, after mass, everyone joined Onate in a grove of  
12 giant trees where, assisted by the royal notary Juan Perez de  
13 Donis, he read in a firm voice the official act of possession.  
14 This document summarized Onate's rights, privileges and  
15 titles; and

16 WHEREAS, shots were fired in the air while trumpets  
17 blared and families and servants shouted approval, and Juan de  
18 Onate signed and sealed the official act at the same time the  
19 royal ensign lifted King Philip's regal banner and waved it  
20 aloft, and

21 WHEREAS, the kingdom of New Mexico came into being, at  
22 midday on April 30, 1598; and

23 WHEREAS, the Mansos, the amicable local Indians who lived  
24 along the river who had been helping the Spanish, now joined  
25 them in a thanksgiving meal of duck, geese, corn and great

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variety of fish found in the river; and

WHEREAS, Captain Villagra who vigilantly documented the events of the day, tells us that the afternoon was given over to celebrating, "with great joy and mirth";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that from this day forward the true and accurate history of New Mexico be heralded throughout our state by encouraging the celebration of April 30 as the first thanksgiving ever celebrated in what is today the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999  
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4  
5

6 February 4, 1999  
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8 Mr. Speaker:  
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10 Your RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE, to  
11 whom has been referred  
12

13 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 15  
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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,  
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22 Nick L. Salazar, Chairman  
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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4 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

6 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

8 Date \_\_\_\_\_

10 The roll call vote was 9 For 0 Against

11 Yes: 9

12 Excused: Lujan, Luna, Picraux, Roberts, Rodella, Taylor, J. G.

13 Absent: None

15 J: \99BillSWP\HJ015

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1 FORTY- FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

3  
4 February 16, 1999

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7 Mr. Speaker:

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9 Your BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, to whom has  
10 been referred

11 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
14 recommendation that it DO PASS.

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16 Respectfully submitted,

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21 Debbie A. Rodella, Chairwoman  
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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4 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

6 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

8 Date \_\_\_\_\_

10 The roll call vote was 9 For 0 Against

11 Yes: 9

12 Excused: Sanchez

13 Absent: Kissner, Mohorovic

15 J: \99BillSWP\HJ015

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