

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 88

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999**

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madelena

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A PLAN BE NEGOTIATED TO RESOLVE ISSUES BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE PUEBLO OF ZIA REGARDING THE STATE'S USE OF THE ZIA SYMBOL ON THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in the early 1920s, the local chapter of the daughters of the American revolution, backed by several women's clubs, decided that the state of New Mexico needed a flag that was more representative of New Mexico's unique character and initiated a design contest; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry Mera won the contest with a flag that incorporated colors and patterns from both Indian and Spanish traditions; and

WHEREAS, to symbolize New Mexico's tradition of cultural diversity, Dr. Mera adapted a sun symbol from a Pueblo of Zia pot and combined it with the red and gold colors of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico, through its legislative process, formally adopted the flag in 1925, and it has continuously flown over the state since that time, displaying

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1 a symbol of "perfect friendship among united cultures"; and  
2 WHEREAS, all accounts of the flag explicitly acknowledge  
3 the origin of the design as an ancient symbol of the Zia  
4 people; and  
5 WHEREAS, the Zia sun symbol has been commercialized over  
6 the years by private interests that have recognized its  
7 commercial value and adopted it for their own benefit; and  
8 WHEREAS, harmony among New Mexico's cultures and the  
9 mutual respect towards traditions and sacred symbols need to  
10 be strengthened in order to close the circle of unity;  
11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge the Zia sun symbol as  
13 an "ancient symbol of the Zia people"; and  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize  
15 that the use of the sacred sun symbol on the state flag was  
16 never authorized by the Pueblo of Zia and the legislature  
17 regrets the unauthorized use of its sacred symbol on the state  
18 flag; and  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of  
20 Indian affairs be requested to enter into negotiations with  
21 the Pueblo of Zia to develop an appropriate and acceptable  
22 plan that would satisfy the desire of the Pueblo of Zia to  
23 preserve the sacred nature of the Zia sun symbol, provide just  
24 recompense for the use the state has made of the symbol over  
25 the last seventy-four years, allow the state to continue using  
the symbol on the state flag in perpetuity and preserve the  
harmony, understanding and mutual respect among New Mexico's  
cultures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan be presented to the

1 legislative finance committee for review and comment prior to  
2 the first session of the forty-fifth legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the governor of the Pueblo of Zia, the governor  
5 of New Mexico and the executive director of the New Mexico  
6 office of Indian affairs.

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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4  
5 March 9, 1999

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8 Mr. Speaker:

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10 Your **GOVERNMENT AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, to  
11 whom has been referred

12  
13 **HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 88**

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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it **DO PASS**, and thence referred to the  
17 **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

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19 Respectfully submitted,

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24 **James G. Taylor, Chairman**  
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

Yes: 7

Excused: None

Absent: None

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999  
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5 March 10, 1999  
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7 Mr. Speaker:  
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9 Your **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**, to  
10 whom has been referred  
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12 **HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 88**  
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14 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
15 recommendation that it **DO PASS**, amended as follows:  
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17 1. On page 2, line 24, after "affairs", insert "and the office of cultural affairs", and  
18 after "enter" insert "jointly".  
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20 2. On page 3, line 14, before the period insert "and the director of the New Mexico  
21 office of cultural affairs".  
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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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5 Respectfully submitted,

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9 **Max Coll, Chairman**

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12 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

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14 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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16 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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18 The roll call vote was 13 For 3 Against

19 Yes: 13

20 No: Buffett, Parsons, Pearce

21 Excused: Watchman

22 Absent: None

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