

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING JANUARY 28, 2026 THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL "GRANT COUNTY
3 DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, Grant county is known for its mining, ranching
6 and art communities; blend of Hispanic, Native American and
7 Anglo cultures; blue skies with three hundred sixty days of
8 sunshine per year; vast mountain landscapes; and small-town
9 atmosphere; and

10 WHEREAS, Grant county is the gateway to the vast Gila
11 wilderness; and

12 WHEREAS, Grant county's largest city and county seat,
13 Silver City, is the only municipality in New Mexico still
14 operating under the territorial charter issued by the
15 legislative assembly of the territory of New Mexico in 1878;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Grant county is the richest county for mining
18 in New Mexico, producing numerous precious metals, including
19 copper, an essential element of green energy and electric
20 vehicles, which is mined from the third-largest open-pit
21 copper mine in the world; and

22 WHEREAS, Grant county is home to western New Mexico
23 university, established in 1893 as New Mexico's only applied
24 liberal arts and sciences university; and

25 WHEREAS, western New Mexico university leads the state

1 in designing education and training programs specific to the
2 evolving needs of a globalized economy, and as one of the
3 original Hispanic-serving institutions in the United States,
4 western New Mexico university is the southwest's hub of
5 Hispanic traditions, languages and music, while providing
6 life-changing education and training opportunities to
7 Hispanic students from across the globe; and

8 WHEREAS, the nationally recognized university ensemble,
9 mariachi plata de western New Mexico university, is
10 celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2026; and

11 WHEREAS, Grant county is known for its true west history
12 that includes prehistoric Native Americans; the Chiricahua
13 Apache, including Geronimo and Victorio, two famous Apache
14 leaders; and iconic wild west figures such as Billy the Kid,
15 lawman Dan Tucker and Madam Millie; and

16 WHEREAS, Grant county is where, in 1866, company B of
17 the one hundred twenty-fifth United States colored infantry
18 regiment, known as the buffalo soldiers, was established at
19 Fort Bayard; and

20 WHEREAS, Grant county is honored as the home of many
21 veterans, and Grant county shares New Mexico's heavy burden
22 of the members of New Mexico's two hundredth coast artillery
23 regiment, many of whom were subjected to the Bataan death
24 march, including the late Representative Thomas Foy; and

25 WHEREAS, Grant county straddles the Continental Divide

1 national scenic trail at six thousand to seven thousand feet,
2 providing cool summers, as well as uninterrupted views of the
3 Mexican border to the south; and

4 WHEREAS, Grant county hosts the annual tour of the Gila,
5 New Mexico's premier cycling stage race, which attracts
6 national and international teams and boosts awareness and use
7 of the trail of the Mountain Spirits national scenic byway;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Grant county is home to significant outdoor
10 recreation areas, including the Catwalk recreation area, City
11 of Rocks state park, the trail of the Mountain Spirits
12 national scenic byway, Bear Canyon reservoir and lake
13 Roberts; and

14 WHEREAS, Grant county has many well-known festivals,
15 including the blues festival, clay festival, tamal fiesta y
16 mas, festival of the written word and southwest print fiesta;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Grant county prospectors honor and
19 recognize the longtime mayor of Hurley, Joseph Edward "Ed"
20 Stevens, who died on December 8, 2025; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico's current lieutenant governor, Howie
22 Morales, is from Grant county;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 28,
25 2026 be declared the fiftieth annual "Grant County Day" in

1 the house of representatives; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ed Stevens and Howie Morales
3 be recognized and honored for their many years of service to
4 the people of New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the members of the board of county
7 commissioners of Grant county. _____

HM 27
Page 4

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25