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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 27**

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Irvin Harrison**

**A MEMORIAL**

**OFFERING REASONS TO CHANGE THE CELEBRATION OF COLUMBUS DAY TO  
THE CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS DAY IN NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus did not discover America,  
as the native peoples of the United States are well aware; and**

**WHEREAS, over twenty tribes call New Mexico home; and**

**WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred ninety-six thousand six  
hundred ninety-five indigenous people live in New Mexico; and**

**WHEREAS, indigenous people view Columbus day as a  
celebration of conquest and genocide; and**

**WHEREAS, the indigenous people of New Mexico have as yet  
no state recognition of their contributions, accomplishments,  
history and culture; and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexicans should proudly celebrate  
"indigenous day" rather than Columbus day in order to mark a**

underscored material = new  
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1 time to celebrate accomplishments and contributions rather  
2 than a time to mourn the losses caused by Columbus; and

3 WHEREAS, the state of South Dakota changed the  
4 celebration of Columbus day to Native American day eighteen  
5 years ago, thus paying tribute to the indigenous people who  
6 still thrive there today; and

7 WHEREAS, approximately twenty states and territories do  
8 not recognize or celebrate Columbus day; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico  
10 celebrate their joint friendship day instead of Columbus day  
11 because of the atrocities committed in the Caribbean by  
12 Columbus and his crew; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico should stop legitimizing the actions  
14 of Columbus and stop perpetuating a historical fiction that  
15 Columbus "discovered" the United States;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that "indigenous  
18 day" be celebrated rather than Columbus day; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that "indigenous day" be used to  
20 celebrate New Mexico's cultural diversity and its  
21 multiculturalism; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of higher  
24 education, the secretary of public education and the  
25 leadership of every Indian tribe, nation or pueblo in New

underscored material = new  
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