

1 A MEMORIAL

2 CELEBRATING COMPLETION OF THE NEW MEXICO HISTORIC WOMEN  
3 MARKER INITIATIVE BY THE NEW MEXICO WOMEN'S FORUM TOGETHER  
4 WITH SEVERAL STATE AGENCIES AND REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO  
5 CENTENNIAL STEERING COMMITTEE TO RECOGNIZE THESE HISTORIC  
6 WOMEN IN THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

7  
8 WHEREAS, in 2006, the important contributions by women  
9 to the state of New Mexico were noticeably absent from the  
10 over five hundred historic markers along New Mexico's  
11 highways; and

12 WHEREAS, it is clear that many women of courage, vision  
13 and fortitude have contributed to New Mexico and its people  
14 throughout the state's long history; and

15 WHEREAS, encouraged and supported by the New Mexico  
16 women's forum, some forum members, including Beverly Duran,  
17 Patricia French and Alexis Girard, undertook a significant  
18 legislative initiative to establish a public-private  
19 partnership between the department of transportation, the  
20 historic preservation division and the cultural properties  
21 review committee of the cultural affairs department and the  
22 state historian to address this grave oversight; and

23 WHEREAS, a key factor of the initiative was to recognize  
24 and honor those deceased women whose contributions  
25 exemplified the great spirit of New Mexico and whose legacies

1 would serve as historical reminders for future generations;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the criteria for nomination and selection of a  
4 candidate to be recognized on a historic marker required  
5 documentation of the historical significance of a woman's  
6 social, educational, political, architectural, artistic or  
7 other notable contribution to her community and to the state,  
8 the southwest or the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, the 2006 historic women marker selection  
10 committee, composed of representatives from the department of  
11 transportation, the New Mexico association of counties, the  
12 commission on the status of women, the historic preservation  
13 division of the cultural affairs department, the New Mexico  
14 women's forum and the general public, sought nominations and  
15 urged community input from local organizations of women and  
16 other groups and individuals knowledgeable about local  
17 history and the contributions of women in particular; and

18 WHEREAS, the nominations were submitted to tribal  
19 governments and county managers in September 2006, and the  
20 respective governments judged the nominations and made  
21 recommendations to the historic women marker selection  
22 committee for review and recommendation to the cultural  
23 properties review committee of the cultural affairs  
24 department for its review and approval; and

25 WHEREAS, the early efforts of the New Mexico women's

1 forum to achieve bipartisan support engendered such support  
2 from Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela, Senators Stuart  
3 Ingle, Sue Wilson Beffort, Dianna J. Duran, Gay G. Kernan and  
4 H. Diane Snyder, First Lady Barbara and Governor Bill  
5 Richardson and other members of the executive cabinet; and

6 WHEREAS, the initiative initially sought to erect  
7 fifty-four markers to represent the contributions of New  
8 Mexico women from each county and from every Indian pueblo,  
9 tribe and nation, with the legislators and the governor  
10 contributing capital outlay funds for the project; and

11 WHEREAS, the number of markers that were actually  
12 erected was increased to sixty-six due to the careful  
13 management of the New Mexico women's forum and the creativity  
14 and support of the secretary of transportation, resulting in  
15 twelve more markers being erected than was initially  
16 anticipated; and

17 WHEREAS, historic markers have now been erected in all  
18 thirty-three counties to honor the women of those counties as  
19 well as women from the state's Indian pueblos, tribes and  
20 nation; and

21 WHEREAS, with the approach of New Mexico's centennial  
22 celebration in 2012, the New Mexico women's forum and all who  
23 participated in this important effort are pleased to have  
24 completed the project in time to honor the achievements of  
25 the over one hundred women reflected by the historic markers

1 during New Mexico's one hundredth year;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico centennial steering  
4 committee be requested to include in the state's centennial  
5 celebration all the appropriate events and activities that  
6 acknowledge and honor the many women who have contributed so  
7 much to New Mexico as evidenced by the New Mexico historic  
8 women marker initiative; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate celebrate and  
10 honor the efforts of the New Mexico women's forum, the  
11 department of transportation, the state historian, the  
12 historic preservation division and the cultural properties  
13 review committee of the cultural affairs department and the  
14 historic women marker selection committee as well as the  
15 tireless efforts of countless New Mexicans who gave of their  
16 time and their expertise, those who shared their rich  
17 historical and cultural stories of grandmothers, mothers,  
18 sisters, aunts and friends and those researchers who devoted  
19 many long hours to researching the history of the women of  
20 New Mexico, thus enriching future generations; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the New Mexico women's forum, the secretary of  
23 transportation, the state historian, the secretary of cultural  
24 affairs and the members of the historic women marker selection  
25 committee.

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