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HOUSE MEMORIAL 24

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A MEMORIAL

ACKNOWLEDGING THE FORT SILL, CHIRICAHUA-WARM SPRINGS APACHE
TRIBE'S ABORIGINAL TERRITORY IN SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, members of the federally recognized Fort Sill,
Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache Tribe are the descendants of the
Mogollon Apaches, Mimbres Apaches, Copper Mine Apaches, Warm
Springs Apaches and Chiricahua Apaches tribes whose aboriginal
territory, former reservation and Indian title lands included
much of southwest New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, those tribes maintained aboriginal and Indian
title to their land in New Mexico and Arizona until the final
surrender of the great Apache Geronimo, his war party and the
remaining tribal members to the United States military on
September 4, 1886; and

WHEREAS, the entire tribe was taken into captivity in 1886
.184895.2

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1 and remained in captivity until 1913, when the surviving
2 members were released, with two-thirds of the members
3 transferred to the Mescalero Apache Tribe reservation, thus
4 becoming members of that tribe, and the remaining members
5 released in Oklahoma, becoming federally recognized as the Fort
6 Sill Apache in 1976; and

7 WHEREAS, the members of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm
8 Springs Apache Tribe continuously sought to return to their
9 aboriginal homelands in New Mexico, which were the lifeblood
10 and heritage of the tribe; and

11 WHEREAS, the spirits of the ancestors of the Fort Sill,
12 Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache Tribe, including Cochise,
13 Geronimo, Victorio, Lozen, Naiche and Mangas Coloradas, are
14 interwoven into the fabric of New Mexico's history and culture;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a major triumph for the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-
17 Warm Springs Apaches in returning to their homeland was the
18 purchase of thirty acres in Akela Flats, Luna county, New
19 Mexico, which was subsequently taken into trust by the federal
20 government on behalf of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm Springs
21 Apaches in 2002;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Fort Sill,
24 Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache Tribe has land held in federal
25 trust status within its former aboriginal territory in

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1 southwest New Mexico as acknowledged by the Indian claims
2 commission and affirmed by the United States court of claims in
3 *Fort Sill Apache Tribe v. United States*; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the chair of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm
6 Springs Apache Tribe, the governor, leaders of the twenty-two
7 Indian Nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico and the New
8 Mexico congressional delegation.

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