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SENATE MEMORIAL 24

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

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

WELCOMING THE FORT SILL, CHIRICAHUA-WARM SPRINGS APACHE TRIBE
TO AMERICAN INDIAN DAY AT THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE AND
ACKNOWLEDGING ITS 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

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1 WHEREAS, the entire tribe was taken into captivity in 1886
2 and remained in captivity until 1913, when the surviving
3 members were released, with two-thirds of the members
4 transferred to the Mescalero Apache Tribe reservation, thus
5 becoming members of that tribe, and the remaining members
6 released in Oklahoma, becoming federally recognized as the Fort
7 Sill Apache in 1976; and

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm Springs
25 Apache Tribe be welcomed to American Indian day at the New

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1 Mexico legislature and that its aboriginal territory in
2 southwest New Mexico be acknowledged; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the chair of the Fort Sill, Chiricahua-Warm
5 Springs Apache Tribe.

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