

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE SISTERS OF LORETTO AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS ON
3 THE OCCASION OF THEIR TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY AND THANKING
4 THEM FOR THEIR TEACHING EFFORTS OVER THE LAST ONE HUNDRED
5 SIXTY YEARS IN NEW MEXICO.

6
7 WHEREAS, the sisters of Loretto at the foot of the cross
8 was founded in Kentucky in 1812, under the name of "Friends
9 of Mary", with the purpose of educating children in that
10 state; and

11 WHEREAS, the order was founded by three women,
12 Mary Rhodes, Ann Havern and Christina Stuart, with the
13 assistance of Father Charles Nerinckx; and

14 WHEREAS, the sisters of Loretto are the first wholly
15 American religious order of women in the United States,
16 founded without foreign affiliation; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1852, at the urging of Archbishop
18 Jean Baptiste Lamy, six sisters left the Kentucky mother
19 house for Santa Fe, in the New Mexico territory; and

20 WHEREAS, the sisters made the arduous journey by boat up
21 the Mississippi to Independence, Missouri, and across the
22 American great plains by horses and a covered wagon, along
23 the way beset by a cholera epidemic and the other dangers and
24 vicissitudes of travel in the midwest and southwest of the
25 1800s; along the way, the Mother Superior died and another

1 nun was too ill to continue the journey and returned to
2 Kentucky, but the four remaining sisters persevered and
3 arrived in Santa Fe on September 26, 1852; and

4 WHEREAS, shortly after arrival, the sisters began
5 learning Spanish and opened the academy of Our Lady of Light
6 in 1853, a school for girls; and

7 WHEREAS, the sisters of Loretto founded and taught at
8 several schools throughout New Mexico, including Taos,
9 founded in 1863; Mora, 1864; Albuquerque, 1866; West Las
10 Vegas, 1869; Las Cruces, 1870; Bernalillo, 1875; Socorro,
11 1879; and East Las Vegas, 1912; and

12 WHEREAS, the sisters also taught at other schools,
13 including Tierra Amarilla, Chama, Jemez Springs and Tome; and

14 WHEREAS, when New Mexico became a state in 1912, some of
15 the Loretto schools became the first public schools or were
16 incorporated into the public school system; and

17 WHEREAS, during the one hundred sixty years the sisters
18 of Loretto at the foot of the cross have been in New Mexico,
19 they have been responsible for educating many generations of
20 New Mexicans and they have contributed greatly to the history
21 and pioneer spirit of the state;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the sisters of Loretto at the foot
24 of the cross be congratulated on their two hundredth year
25 jubilee on April 26, 2012 and thanked for their long history

1 of service to New Mexico, particularly to the children; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

3 transmitted to the sisters of Loretto at the foot of the

4 cross. _____

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