

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING JANUARY 17, 2019 "ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, there are more than forty-two thousand Asian
6 Americans living in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are among the fastest-growing
8 and emerging communities of color in New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian Americans in New Mexico come from
10 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India,
11 Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,
12 Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet and
13 Vietnam, as well as other locations; and

14 WHEREAS, Asian Americans have worked on the railroads
15 and in agriculture in New Mexico since the nineteenth century
16 and fought bravely in World War I, World War II, the Korean
17 and Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War and in Afghanistan and
18 Iraq and have received congressional medals of honor, purple
19 hearts and other military commendations; and

20 WHEREAS, this year represents the fifty-fourth
21 anniversary of the passage of the federal Immigration and
22 Nationality Act of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon
23 B. Johnson at the foot of the statue of liberty on October 3,
24 1965; and

25 WHEREAS, the Chinese American citizens alliance,

1 including its Albuquerque chapter, the Asian American
2 association of New Mexico and the Japanese American citizens
3 league thank the New Mexico legislature for its leadership in
4 the 1882 project, seeking an apology from congress for
5 passage of a series of laws, including the 1882 Chinese
6 Exclusion Act, which was not repealed until 1943; and

7 WHEREAS, prior to passage of the federal Immigration and
8 Nationality Act of 1965, Asians were greatly affected by the
9 Chinese Exclusion Act, which restricted immigration of
10 Chinese laborers and forbade the naturalization of Chinese
11 immigrants; and

12 WHEREAS, Asians also were affected by the federal
13 Immigration Act of 1917, which designated an "Asiatic barred
14 zone" of much of eastern Asia and the Pacific islands from
15 which people could not immigrate to the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of
17 1965 enabled Asian family reunification, civil rights and
18 equal protection under the law that had been denied for over
19 sixty years; and

20 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201, passed by
21 unanimous consent, including New Mexico Senators Jeff
22 Bingaman and Tom Udall, on October 6, 2011, acknowledged that
23 the exclusion laws were incompatible with a basic founding
24 principle of the United States: that all persons are created
25 equal; and

1 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201 further
2 expressed deep regret for six decades of legislation
3 specifically targeting persons of Asian descent, barring them
4 from naturalization and immigration and denying them civil
5 rights and equal protection under the law; and

6 WHEREAS, United States House of Representatives
7 Resolution 683, expressing the regret of the house of
8 representatives for the passage of laws that adversely
9 affected the Chinese in the United States, including the
10 Chinese Exclusion Act, was supported by Congressmen Martin T.
11 Heinrich, Steve Pearce and Ben R. Lujan; the resolution was
12 placed on the suspension calendar and passed unanimously by
13 the one hundred twelfth congress by voice vote on June 8,
14 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico Senator Cisco McSorley sponsored and
16 led the repeal of the Alien Land Law from the constitution of
17 New Mexico during the first session of the forty-seventh
18 legislature in 2005, which law prohibited land ownership by
19 all immigrants ineligible for United States citizenship; and

20 WHEREAS, the repeal of these laws affirms the
21 responsibility of congress and the New Mexico legislature to
22 safeguard the civil rights and constitutional protections of
23 all Americans, regardless of their race or ethnicity; and

24 WHEREAS, Asian Americans contribute greatly to the
25 economy of New Mexico with their labor, industry, businesses

1 and purchasing power; and

2 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are contributing their unique
3 culture, customs and traditions to the already richly diverse
4 culture of New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, Asians are a strong part of the narrative and
6 historical context of New Mexico and deserve to have their
7 humanity in all its shapes and forms be recognized;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 17,
10 2019 be declared "Asian American Day" in the house of
11 representatives; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the Asian American association of New Mexico
14 and the New Mexico Asian family center. _____

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