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SENATE MEMORIAL 30

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION OF ITS SACRED BLUE LAKE AND SURROUNDING LANDS TO THE PUEBLO OF TAOS.

WHEREAS, in 1970, at the request of President Richard Nixon, the congress of the United States restored the sacred Blue lake and its surrounding lands to the Pueblo of Taos; and

WHEREAS, this restoration was the culmination of a sixty-four-year struggle by the Pueblo of Taos to regain the sacred Blue lake and surrounding areas that had been wrongfully taken from the Pueblo of Taos in 1906; and

WHEREAS, this restoration was the first time that a large acreage of wrongfully taken land was restored to an American Indian tribe; and

WHEREAS, this restoration was a symbolic act that

underscored material = new  
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1 transformed federal Indian policy to give new respect to the  
2 practice of Native American religion by American Indian tribes  
3 and led to the enactment of federal legislation to protect the  
4 exercise of religious freedom by those tribes; and

5 WHEREAS, passage of Public Law 91-550 provided a precedent  
6 for the restoration of land to other Indian tribes; and

7 WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Taos will commemorate the fiftieth  
8 anniversary of the passage of Public Law 91-550 in a national  
9 gathering at the Pueblo of Taos on September 19, 2020;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the fiftieth anniversary of the restoration  
12 of Blue lake to the Pueblo of Taos be recognized and  
13 celebrated; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the governor of the Pueblo of Taos.

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