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A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 6, 2025 "VALENCIA COUNTY DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Valencia county is part of the historic Rio Abajo region; and

WHEREAS, in 1739, the king of Spain granted the famous town of Tome land grant-merced to thirty families, establishing a foundational community in what is now Valencia county; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas was founded by Spaniards in the eighteenth century and has grown to become New Mexico's second-fastest-growing community, experiencing expansive population growth; and

WHEREAS, Belen, officially known as "Nuestra Senora de Belen", was a strategic point along the Camino Real, also known as "the Royal Road", which carved a trade route south into Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Belen later became known as "the hub city" due to the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, now known as the BNSF railway company; and

WHEREAS, Belen is home to the BNSF railway fuel station, which plays a critical role in supporting the transport of goods across the country, reinforcing the city's importance as a major hub for logistics and commerce; and

1 WHEREAS, Peralta was the site of a minor engagement
2 during the American Civil War; and

3 WHEREAS, Bosque Farms became a destination for relocated
4 dust bowl refugees and continues to embrace its identity as a
5 sparsely populated agricultural community; and

6 WHEREAS, Rio Communities is home to Valencia county's
7 only golf course, Tierra del Sol, and continues to serve as a
8 recreational and residential destination; and

9 WHEREAS, agriculture remains a vital part of Valencia
10 county's identity and economy; and

11 WHEREAS, the original pre-1937 United States route 66
12 runs through the heart of Valencia county, linking it to a
13 rich history of trade, transportation and cultural exchange;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to the decalogue stone,
16 which contains an inscription interpreted to be an abridged
17 version of the ten commandments in Paleo-Hebrew, adding to
18 its historical significance; and

19 WHEREAS, Valencia county houses two prominent museums,
20 the Belen Harvey house museum and the Los Lunas museum of
21 heritage and arts, which preserve the history and cultural
22 heritage of the region; and

23 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to parts of the Cibola
24 national forest and the Manzano mountain wilderness,
25 providing scenic beauty and opportunities for outdoor

1 recreation; and

2 WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the largest
3 matanza in the world, a symbol of the rich Spanish heritage
4 of the Rio Grande valley, hosted annually by the Hispano
5 chamber of Valencia county to preserve traditions, promote
6 local businesses and raise funds for scholarships; and

7 WHEREAS, the greater Valencia county chamber of commerce
8 has played a pivotal role in driving business growth and
9 expansion in the region by fostering collaboration among
10 local businesses, providing valuable resources and supporting
11 initiatives that enhance economic development and community
12 prosperity; and

13 WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas has emerged as a
14 catalyst for industrial manufacturing, technological
15 advancement and economic development in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, Valencia county is now a growing hub for
17 manufacturing and logistics, with major employers, such as
18 Meta, Amazon and Arcosa, driving job creation and economic
19 prosperity; and

20 WHEREAS, Valencia county's central location,
21 transportation infrastructure and business-friendly
22 environment position is a strong contender to become the new
23 home of the New Mexico state fair, providing economic
24 benefits to the state and enhancing the region's tourism and
25 community engagement opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, Kaitlyn Maria of Belen, Valencia county rodeo
2 queen, was crowned the 2025 New Mexico state fair queen,
3 showcasing the talent and dedication of Valencia county
4 residents on a statewide stage; and

5 WHEREAS, Los Lunas and greater Valencia county continue
6 to be a center of economic growth in New Mexico, with an
7 expanding population, thriving industries and innovative
8 development projects contributing to New Mexico's
9 competitiveness on a national and global scale;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 6,
12 2025 be declared "Valencia County Day" in the house of
13 representatives; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the mayors of Belen, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms,
16 Peralta and Rio Communities and the chair of the board of
17 county commissioners of Valencia county. _____

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