

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 7, 2025 "AMERICAN INDIAN DAY" IN THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to twenty-three sovereign
6 Native American nations, tribes and pueblos, whose people are
7 citizens of both New Mexico and their sovereign nations,
8 tribes and pueblos; and

9 WHEREAS, decades ago, the state of New Mexico in its
10 wisdom set apart a day each year, to be known as "American
11 Indian Day", in recognition of the many contributions of
12 Native Americans to the economic and cultural heritage of all
13 citizens of the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, the legislature takes great care to recognize
15 and support the immeasurable contributions that Native
16 American people have made to make New Mexico great; and

17 WHEREAS, the federal Indian Citizenship Act, which
18 extended United States citizenship to all Native Americans
19 born within the United States and its territories, was signed
20 into law in 1924 but did not include the right to vote; and

21 WHEREAS, Miguel Trujillo, born in Pueblo of Isleta in
22 1904, enlisted in the United States marine corps after the
23 attack on Pearl Harbor and recruited Native Americans to join
24 the military, including some who later became Navajo code
25 talkers. Trujillo felt that as a citizen and a veteran, he

1 had a right to vote, but his attempt to register to vote in
2 1948 was denied. He brought a court case and won,
3 guaranteeing all Native Americans in New Mexico the right to
4 vote; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1942, the United States marine corps
6 recruited the first twenty-nine Navajo code talkers, who
7 spoke both Navajo and English and helped devise a code that
8 more than four hundred Navajo code talkers eventually used
9 and Japanese linguists never decoded. At the end of World
10 War II, the code talkers were sworn to secrecy about their
11 work, and the secret program was not revealed to the public
12 until 1969. In 1982, August 14 was declared "national Navajo
13 code talkers day"; and

14 WHEREAS, the first Native Americans to serve in the New
15 Mexico legislature both began and served in the same years,
16 1965 and 1966: Representative James Atcitty, who served San
17 Juan county, and Representative Monroe Jymm, who served
18 McKinley county. The first Native American woman to serve in
19 the New Mexico legislature was Lynda M. Lovejoy, who served
20 in house district 69 from 1989 to 1998 and senate district 22
21 from 2007 to 2012 and was the first Native American woman
22 senator and the first Native American to serve in both
23 chambers of the legislature; and

24 WHEREAS, the current list of New Mexico Native American
25 legislators includes: Representative D. Wonda Johnson, house

1 district 5, Navajo; Representative Derrick J. Lente, house
2 district 65, Pueblo of Isleta and Pueblo of Sandia;
3 Representative Charlotte Little, house district 68, Pueblo of
4 San Felipe; Representative Patricia Roybal Caballero, house
5 district 13, Piro-Manso-Tiwa, Pueblo of Guadalupe;
6 Representative Michelle Paulene Abeyta, house district 69,
7 Navajo; Representative Joseph Franklin Hernandez, house
8 district 4, Navajo; Senator Benny Shendo, Jr., senate
9 district 22, Pueblo of Jemez; Senator Shannon D. Pinto,
10 senate district 3, Navajo; and Senator Angel M. Charley,
11 senate district 30, Pueblo of Laguna and Navajo; and

12 WHEREAS, contemporary life in New Mexico is deeply
13 enriched by the cultural, artistic, economic, social,
14 religious and political aspects of its Native American people
15 and communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Native Americans are the original inhabitants
17 of this state and have overcome great devastation and
18 misfortune; and

19 WHEREAS, the experiences of Native Americans in New
20 Mexico provide substantial enrichment to the state and are
21 worthy of great esteem;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 7,
24 2025 be declared "American Indian Day" in the house of
25 representatives; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and the secretary of Indian affairs. _____