

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 14, 2025 "AFRICAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, African-American day is a celebration of the
6 achievements and contributions of African Americans to the
7 history of both New Mexico and the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico recognizes the importance of
9 honoring African Americans, having enacted Section 12-5-12
10 NMSA 1978, which states, "the second Friday of February of
11 each year shall be set apart and be known as "African-American
12 day""; and

13 WHEREAS, African-American day is a day to reflect on the
14 many sacrifices that African Americans have made toward the
15 democracy everyone enjoys today; and

16 WHEREAS, African-American day shall be observed by the
17 people of New Mexico in recognition of those efforts; and

18 WHEREAS, African-American day is celebrated in tandem
19 with Black history month; and

20 WHEREAS, the celebration of African-American day is also
21 a time for people to reflect upon the need for diversity in
22 thinking and strategic planning as laws and policies are
23 developed to ensure that all voices are heard in decisions
24 that affect New Mexico and New Mexicans; and

25 WHEREAS, African-American day provides an opportunity to

1 honor the often-forgotten accomplishments of Black Americans
2 to every important outcome that makes up the history of New
3 Mexico and the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Black history month should not be treated as
5 though it is separate from the collective American history or
6 as though Black history month is merely a compilation of
7 greatest hits, ranging from the badges and incidents of
8 slavery to some of the most important supreme court cases
9 that have created precedents inspired by African American
10 experiences, but rather as a month that is focused on the
11 shared experiences of African Americans blended into a recipe
12 that creates a unique flavor of diversity with a
13 multicultural experience that everyone can appreciate; and

14 WHEREAS, the African American community in New Mexico
15 has a compelling legacy that dates back to 1539, when
16 Esteban, a Spanish Moor from North Africa, traveled to New
17 Mexico seeking gold; and

18 WHEREAS, after the American Civil War, thousands of
19 African American soldiers, also known as the buffalo
20 soldiers, were garrisoned at eleven different forts
21 throughout the territory of New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, today, New Mexico has a vibrant African
23 American community with a growing population that is still
24 not fully embraced, as evidenced by disproportionate health
25 outcomes, housing disparities and high unemployment; and

1 WHEREAS, efforts to advance racial equality and civil
2 engagement continue to be urgent priorities; and

3 WHEREAS, the great contributions that African Americans
4 have made to both the history of New Mexico and the history
5 of the United States should be celebrated and acknowledged
6 while also recognizing that the fight for racial justice and
7 equality continues every day;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 14,
10 2025 be declared "African-American day" in the house of
11 representatives; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the executive director of the
14 office on African American affairs, the president of the
15 university of New Mexico, the president of the New Mexico
16 black caucus and the president of the New Mexico state
17 conference of the national association for the advancement of
18 colored people.

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