

Good morning my Name is Andrea Padilla, currently serving as President of the Town of Tome Land Grant. The other members of our board are: Joe Baca, Vice President, Rosemarie Romero, treasurer, Monica Padilla, secretary and Heidi Zamora, member. On Behalf of the Town of Tome Land grant, we welcome you and look forward to two days of important information and guidance from the NM Land Grant Interim Committee. Through your efforts, Tome and other land grants have benefited and are grateful for your advocacy and support throughout the years.

At this time I would like to have a moment of silence in honor of our former president who passed away recently, Mr. Lawrence Sanchez. We appreciate him and all his did for our land grant and all land grants around the state of New Mexico.

The Town of Tome Land Grant, established in 1739, is one of the five oldest land grants in New Mexico. It has had, like many land grants in New Mexico a history of successes, challenges and important pivotal points that have caused this and pervious boards to preserve and evolve into the Land Grant that it is today, One that stresses cultural and historical preservation. Since the loss of the Land Grant in the not so distant past and since the reconstitution and finally by your assistance, becoming a political sub-division of the state of NM, we have seen many successes. Some of these are: the acquisition of the Cerro de Tome (encompassing approximately 280 acres, Tome Hill Park and the surrounding eleven acres nearby, an 1880's cemetery, our community center, museum, Korean War Memorial and baseball field, and several donated lots on the old common lands.

We are proud that we remain a visible and active part of Valencia County and the State of New Mexico. We do this by hosting a variety of events such as free lunch for Veterans on Veteran's day and Memorial Day, offering free Tai Chi classes at our center, hosting Farmer's Markets and hosting our annual Balloon Glow, which collects food for local pantries. We have also adopted Sedillo Rd. (El Camino Real) which leads to our historic Tome Plaza. We are also giving our baseball field a face lift so that local Little League Teams can use it for practice and games.

Many of our successes would have not been possible without the support of this committee, the Consejo, the NM Land Grant Council, the UNM Land Grant Studies Program, the Attorney General's Office, many local heirs and volunteers, and many more silent and important supporters. With that, I will present a short film about Tome.