

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 200

INTRODUCED BY

Manny M. Aragon

A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING ELFEGO BACA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO'S
HERITAGE.

WHEREAS, Elfego Baca was a gunfighter, lawman, marshal,
attorney, politician, private detective, school
superintendent, mayor, county clerk and district attorney;
and

WHEREAS, Elfego Baca was most of all a champion for the
underdog and a staunch defender of justice; and

WHEREAS, born in the tumultuous year of 1865, Elfego
Baca entered this world with a thump, so the story goes,
while his mother was jumping for the ball in a baseball game;
and

WHEREAS, at the age of nineteen, Elfego Baca, a
sheriff's deputy in Socorro, rode one hundred thirty miles to
San Francisco Plaza, a small town now called Reserve, to deal
with dozens and dozens of cowboys who were making things

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 difficult for the Mexicans in that settlement; and

2 WHEREAS, Deputy Baca arrested one cowboy and, when other
3 cowboys tried to free the prisoner, he engaged the others in
4 a shootout in which one cowboy was wounded and another killed
5 when that cowboy fell from his horse; and

6 WHEREAS, following that incident, Baca was forced to
7 hole himself up in a *jacal* and defend himself by shooting
8 through the rafters as some eighty cowboys poured bullets into
9 the hut and later tried to burn it down; and

10 WHEREAS, Elfego Baca held off the cowboys for thirty-six
11 hours, killing four men and injuring another eight until he
12 finally surrendered to Deputy Sheriff Frank Rose; and

13 WHEREAS, during his trial on murder charges, the door of
14 the *jacal*, reportedly peppered with four hundred bullet
15 holes, was submitted as evidence, which helped lead to Baca's
16 acquittal; and

17 WHEREAS, he has been the subject of a Walt Disney
18 television series entitled "The Nine Lives of Elfego Baca",
19 books and many histories of the time period; and

20 WHEREAS, as a legend in his own lifetime and a folk hero
21 after his death at the age of eighty, Elfego Baca stands as a
22 picturesque character, a man who was more than a gunfighter
23 and ruffian but a man whose eventful life in the time of the
24 settlement of the Old West stands as a testament to
25 championing the poor and the Hispanic citizens of the state
of New Mexico; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

.131366.2

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it extend its recognition of Elfego
2 Baca for his dedication to the city of Socorro and the state
3 of New Mexico and take pride in his part of the history of
4 the old west; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the mayor of Socorro.

7 - 3 -

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25