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HOUSE MEMORIAL 32

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY
THE HERB PURSLANE, ALSO KNOWN AS VERDOLAGAS, FOR POTENTIAL
DESIGNATION AS THE STATE HERB.

WHEREAS, many New Mexicans served their country with
honor and distinction in World War II; and

WHEREAS, many of them suffered and died during their
forced participation in the infamous Bataan Death March in the
Philippine campaign and in prisoner of war camps; and

WHEREAS, many New Mexicans who survived the Bataan Death
March sustained themselves by eating the plant purslane, also
known as verdolagas; and

WHEREAS, Paul Trujillo was one such New Mexican who
survived the Bataan Death March and consumed purslane in a
prisoner of war camp; and

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1 WHEREAS, purslane is also native to New Mexico and is
2 found growing throughout the state; and

3 WHEREAS, Paul Trujillo recently passed away at age
4 eighty-three; and

5 WHEREAS, his friends Cristobal Martinez of the national
6 association of retired federal employees; Ray Gomez; Hilario
7 G. Maes, a vocational agriculture and future farmers of
8 America teacher; Tony Scarborough; and Anita Roybal have
9 testified that it was Paul Trujillo's lifelong dream to honor
10 the role purslane played in the survival of New Mexicans in
11 prisoner of war camps by designating purslane as the state
12 herb of New Mexico;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
15 department of agriculture be requested to study the potential
16 for naming purslane, also known as verdolagas, as the state
17 herb of New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
20 agriculture.