

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MUSEUM FOR ITS PROMINENCE IN THE ART WORLD, ITS ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO AND ITS STEWARDSHIP OF AN INVALUABLE PORTION OF AMERICA'S ARTISTIC HERITAGE.

WHEREAS, the Georgia O'Keeffe museum is dedicated to perpetuating the artistic legacy of Georgia O'Keeffe and to the study and interpretation of American modernism; and

WHEREAS, through its collections, exhibitions, publications, research center and educational programs, the museum contributes to scholarly discourse and serves diverse audiences; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia O'Keeffe museum is the only museum in the United States dedicated to a single woman artist with international status and whose work is closely associated with

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1 New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia O'Keeffe museum is the only museum in
3 New Mexico invited to join the ninety-two-year-old association
4 of art museum directors; and

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia O'Keeffe museum is the most visited
6 art museum in New Mexico and the most visited tourist
7 attraction in Santa Fe, drawing more than one hundred sixty-
8 five thousand visitors annually; and

9 WHEREAS, since it opened in July 1997, the museum has
10 mounted more than twenty-five exhibitions, seen by nearly two
11 million visitors, that explored the work of Georgia O'Keeffe as
12 well as other American modernists, from Andy Warhol to the
13 legendary photographer Alfred Stieglitz; and

14 WHEREAS, the museum will soon quintuple its collection in
15 early 2006 by acquiring more than one thousand additional
16 O'Keeffe works from the Georgia O'Keeffe foundation; and

17 WHEREAS, the additional works, most of which have never
18 been seen by the public, will result in greatly heightened
19 attention to New Mexico's art scene and a substantial increase
20 of visitors; and

21 WHEREAS, more than half the museum's visitors are from
22 outside New Mexico and many state that the museum was a primary
23 reason for selecting New Mexico as a travel destination; and

24 WHEREAS, tourists who come to New Mexico primarily to
25 visit the museum make a substantial contribution to the

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1 economies of Santa Fe and New Mexico through admission tickets,
2 lodging, restaurants and by visiting other museums, galleries
3 and shops; and

4 WHEREAS, the museum's research center is the only research
5 facility of its kind in the country focusing exclusively on
6 American modernism, and it gives six scholarships annually to
7 predoctoral and postdoctoral students from the nation's most
8 prestigious universities and makes its unique archives
9 accessible to researchers worldwide; and

10 WHEREAS, the museum's education and public programs
11 department continues to develop innovative projects that reach
12 out to New Mexico's residents, particularly its youth; and

13 WHEREAS, the museum's art and leadership program for girls
14 and boys has been recognized nationally and makes it possible
15 for middle-school children from all ethnic groups and income
16 levels to exchange outlooks and find support for their interest
17 in art; and

18 WHEREAS, more than twenty thousand students from across
19 New Mexico are given free access to the museum annually through
20 school tours; and

21 WHEREAS, the museum will celebrate its tenth anniversary
22 in 2007, a major landmark that will emphasize the museum's
23 rapid growth and success in a relatively short time; and

24 WHEREAS, for its tenth anniversary, the museum is planning
25 a series of major exhibitions that will travel to other cities

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1 in the United States, bringing New Mexico national attention;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Georgia O'Keeffe museum be
4 recognized as a signature art institution in New Mexico and be
5 acknowledged for its increasing prominence in the art world,
6 its economic contributions to the tourist industries of New
7 Mexico and Santa Fe, its standard of excellence, its fostering
8 of local pride and its stewardship of an invaluable portion of
9 America's artistic heritage; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the board of directors of the Georgia O'Keeffe
12 museum.