

1 A MEMORIAL

2 SUPPORTING THE "1882 PROJECT" AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 26, 2013
3 TO BE "INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT AND ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" AT THE
4 SENATE.

5
6 WHEREAS, there are over thirty thousand Asians living in
7 New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, Asians are among the fastest-growing minorities
9 in New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, Asians in New Mexico come from Afghanistan,
11 Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Iraq, Iran,
12 Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the
13 Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet and Vietnam; and

14 WHEREAS, the Chinese American citizens alliance,
15 including its Albuquerque chapter, the Asian American
16 association of New Mexico and the Japanese American citizens
17 league thank the New Mexico legislature for its leadership in
18 the 1882 project, seeking an apology from congress for
19 passage of a series of laws, including the 1882 Chinese
20 Exclusion Act, which was not repealed until 1943; and

21 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201, passed by
22 unanimous consent, including New Mexico senators
23 Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall, on October 6, 2011, acknowledged
24 that the exclusion laws were incompatible with a basic
25 founding principle of the United States, that all persons are

1 created equal; and

2 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201 further
3 expressed deep regret for six decades of legislation
4 specifically targeting persons of Chinese descent, barring
5 them from naturalization and immigration and denying them
6 civil rights and equal protection under the law; and

7 WHEREAS, United States House of Representatives
8 Resolution 683, cosponsored by New Mexico representatives
9 Martin Heinrich and Steve Pearce and supported by
10 Representative Ben Ray Lujan, was placed on the suspension
11 calendar and passed unanimously by the one hundred twelfth
12 congress by voice vote on June 8, 2012; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico State Senator Cisco McSorley
14 sponsored and led the repeal of the alien land law from the
15 constitution of New Mexico during the second session of the
16 forty-seventh legislature in 2006, which law prohibited land
17 ownership by all immigrants ineligible for United States
18 citizenship; and

19 WHEREAS, the repeal of these laws affirms the
20 responsibility of congress and the New Mexico legislature to
21 safeguard the civil rights and constitutional protections of
22 all Americans, regardless of their race or ethnicity; and

23 WHEREAS, Asians are contributing their unique culture,
24 customs and traditions to the already richly diverse culture
25 of New Mexico; and

1 WHEREAS, during the first session of the forty-ninth
2 legislature in 2009, State Senator Timothy M. Keller
3 sponsored Senate Joint Memorial 24, which declared that the
4 area in Albuquerque centered around Louisiana boulevard
5 between Central and Zuni avenues, comprising the communities
6 of La Mesa, Trumbull, South San Pedro, Elder Homestead, Fair
7 West and surrounding areas, shall be collectively known as
8 the "International District", which memorial passed the
9 legislature without a dissenting vote; and

10 WHEREAS, in the "International District", Native
11 Americans and New Mexicans, whose families have been in
12 New Mexico for hundreds of years, live alongside recent
13 immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America, Asia,
14 Europe, Africa and other regions of the world; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States department of state's refugee
16 resettlement program has contributed to many cultures,
17 customs and faiths and is represented in this diverse and
18 vibrant part of Albuquerque; and

19 WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven languages spoken at
20 Highland high school and the "International District" is
21 commonly recognized as the most internationally and
22 culturally diverse area of New Mexico;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 26, 2013 be declared
25 "International District and Asian American Day" at the

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