

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING MARCH 6, 2015 "ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE SENATE.

3
4 WHEREAS, there are more than thirty thousand Asians
5 living in New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, Asians are among the fastest-growing minority
7 groups in New Mexico; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Asians have worked on the railroads and in
13 agriculture in New Mexico since the nineteenth century and
14 fought bravely in World War I, World War II, the Korean and
15 Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War and in Afghanistan and Iraq
16 and have received Congressional Medals of Honor, Purple
17 Hearts and other military commendations; and

18 WHEREAS, this year represents the fiftieth anniversary
19 of the passage of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act
20 of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson at
21 the foot of the statue of liberty on October 3, 1965; and

22 WHEREAS, prior to passage of the Immigration and
23 Nationality Act of 1965, Asians were greatly affected by the
24 Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, which restricted
25 immigration of Chinese laborers and forbade the

1 naturalization of Chinese immigrants; and

2 WHEREAS, Asians also were affected by the Immigration
3 Act of 1917, which designated an "Asiatic barred zone" of
4 much of eastern Asia and the Pacific islands from which
5 people could not immigrate; and

6 WHEREAS, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
7 enabled Chinese family reunification, civil rights and equal
8 protection under the law that had been denied for over sixty
9 years; and

10 WHEREAS, the law linked persons of Chinese descent to
11 all American minorities and the basic founding principle of
12 the United States: that all persons are created equal; and

13 WHEREAS, Asians have contributed greatly to the economy
14 of New Mexico with their labor, industry, businesses and
15 purchasing power; and

16 WHEREAS, Asians are contributing their unique culture,
17 customs and traditions to the already richly diverse culture
18 of New Mexico;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 6, 2015 be declared "Asian
21 American Day" in the senate; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial
23 be transmitted to the Asian American association of
24 New Mexico. _____