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HOUSE MEMORIAL 22

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez and Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT LOCAL 890 UNION HALL IN BAYARD, NEW MEXICO, BE
CONSIDERED FOR PLACEMENT ON THE STATE REGISTER OF CULTURAL
PROPERTIES.

WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall in Bayard, New Mexico, is
steeped in the history of Mexican American and other minority
groups' struggle and triumph over injustice and discrimination
and that group's pursuit of happiness as guaranteed under the
United States constitution; and

WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall is a memorial enshrining the
spirit of unity and brotherhood that was the impetus behind
that minority group's remarkable achievement and is a reminder
of unusual courage and fortitude, days of hardship and despair
and the fight for human dignity; and

WHEREAS, in October 1950, Local 890 went on strike at the

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1 mine and mill owned by Empire Zinc company after the company
2 refused to negotiate and, in June 1951, obtained a court order
3 prohibiting union members from blocking the road to the mine;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, when the women of Ladies Auxiliary 290 took over
6 the picket line the following day, fifty-three of them were
7 arrested and jailed, along with their children, but the picket
8 line held. The arrests made national news and were featured in
9 newspapers such as the *New York Times*; and

10 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall is where *Salt of the Earth*
11 was planned and executed. The film was about the Empire Zinc
12 company strike and addressed the subjects of the suppression of
13 and discrimination against workers and was one of the first
14 motion pictures to advance the feminist social and political
15 point of view; and

16 WHEREAS, *Salt of the Earth*, which was filmed in and around
17 Grant county, New Mexico, is the only motion picture in
18 American film history to be blacklisted; and

19 WHEREAS, the New Mexico historical society has designated
20 *Salt of the Earth* as a significant historical event; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1992, the library of congress designated *Salt*
22 *of the Earth* as one of one hundred films for preservation and
23 posterity in the United States national film registry for being
24 "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant"; and

25 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall has been a place for the

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1 community, where miners and their families could attend
2 lectures and movies and socialize at dances, bingo parties,
3 weddings and baptisms, in addition to being used for union
4 business; and

5 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall has been designated as a
6 classic building by the society of architectural historians;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall should be recognized as a
9 historic landmark so that the struggle of the workers of Local
10 890 and Ladies Auxiliary 290 against racism, sexism and unjust
11 working conditions will not be forgotten; and

12 WHEREAS, Local 890 union hall is a structure having
13 historic and cultural significance and is a valued and
14 important asset of New Mexico that is worthy of preservation;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural
17 properties review committee consider placing Local 890 union
18 hall on the state register of cultural properties; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state historic
20 preservation officer assist the cultural properties review
21 committee in considering placing Local 890 union hall on the
22 state register of cultural properties; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs, the chair of
25 the cultural properties review committee and the state historic

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preservation officer.

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