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HOUSE MEMORIAL 86

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

INTRODUCED BY

G. Andres Romero and Tomás E. Salazar

A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING GOVERNOR EZEQUIEL CABEZA DE BACA, NEW MEXICO'S
FIRST HISPANIC GOVERNOR.

WHEREAS, Ezequiel Cabeza de Baca was the first Hispanic
elected to the office of governor of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Ezequiel was born in west Las Vegas, New Mexico,
on November 1, 1864; and

WHEREAS, Ezequiel's great-grandfather, Luis Maria Cabeza
de Baca, and his family were the first settlers on the Las
Vegas land grant in 1821; and

WHEREAS, Ezequiel Cabeza de Baca attended parochial
elementary schools in his youth and later received a higher
education at the Jesuit college of Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, Ezquiel was married to Margarita C. de Baca on
December 14, 1889, at Peña Blanca, and the couple had thirteen

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1 children; and

2 WHEREAS, Ezequiel was employed as a professional
3 journalist on the editorial staff of *La Voz del Pueblo*,
4 published by Félix Martínez, and for *La Revista*, both Las Vegas
5 publications; and

6 WHEREAS, Ezequiel's political views were shaped by
7 organizations he belonged to, such as la sociedad literaria y
8 de ayuda mutua – the Spanish library and mutual aid society; la
9 sociedad por la protección de educación – the society for the
10 protection of education; los caballeros de labor – the knights
11 of labor; and la prensa asociada Hispano-Americana – the
12 Spanish-American associated press; and

13 WHEREAS, as a journalist, Ezequiel worked closely with his
14 friend, attorney and future governor of New Mexico, Octaviano
15 Ambrozio Larrazolo, in authoring and crafting most of the
16 constitution of New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, Ezequiel worked hard to protect and preserve the
18 Spanish language by ensuring that English and Spanish were
19 treated with perfect equality in schools, courts, businesses,
20 institutions and other places; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1912, Ezequiel was elected New Mexico's first
22 Hispanic lieutenant governor and became the first state elected
23 official to preside over the senate in the legislature; and

24 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Cabeza de Baca served in that
25 capacity until December 31, 1916; and

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1 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Cabeza de Baca's term as
2 lieutenant governor was followed by his election as the second
3 governor of New Mexico on November 7, 1916, followed by his
4 inauguration on January 1, 1917; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Cabeza de Baca was a staunch supporter
6 of free and open journalism, bilingual education, the public
7 education system and ranchers' land rights; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor Cabeza de Baca was a clarion voice of
9 reason for the rural poor Hispano, preservation of the Spanish
10 and Castilian languages, fairness in voting and protection
11 rights, and he fought against unjust land-fencing laws; and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Cabeza de Baca was very ill during most
13 of his campaign for governor; and

14 WHEREAS, on Sunday morning, February 18, 1917, surrounded
15 by his family, Governor Cabeza De Baca died peacefully at the
16 age of fifty-two, after serving forty-nine valiant days as New
17 Mexico's second governor;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Governor
20 Ezequiel Cabeza de Baca be commemorated and remembered through
21 history as the first Hispanic governor elected to the office of
22 governor of any state in the United States of America; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the chairman of the Hispano round table of New
25 Mexico, the governor, the mayor of Las Vegas, the executive

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1 director of the national association of Latino elected and
2 appointed officials, the Democratic governors association, the
3 Republican governors association and the president of the
4 United States.

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