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HOUSE MEMORIAL 108

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

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Trujillo and Christine Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

HONORING NEW MEXICO FEMALE ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DECLARING
MARCH 8, 2017 "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, international women's day, March 8, has been
celebrated around the world since 1909 and in the United States
since 1977; and

WHEREAS, there are more than three billion five hundred
million women in the world; and

WHEREAS, the ability of women and girls to realize their
full potential is critical to the ability of a country to
achieve strong and lasting economic growth and political and
social stability; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to alleviate violence and
discrimination against women and afford women every opportunity

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1 to be full and productive members of their communities; and

2 WHEREAS, this year's international women's day theme is
3 "#BeBoldForChange"; and

4 WHEREAS, on this day, thousands of events inspiring women
5 and celebrating their achievements will be held throughout the
6 world; and

7 WHEREAS, the first Hispanic female legislators in the
8 United States served in New Mexico's territorial legislature,
9 beginning in 1895; and

10 WHEREAS, following New Mexico's statehood in 1912,
11 Representative Bertha Paxton became the first woman elected to
12 the New Mexico legislature in 1923; and

13 WHEREAS, Soledad Chacon was New Mexico's first female
14 secretary of state, serving from 1923 through 1926, and the
15 first female to act as governor for a substantial period of
16 time in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1925, Louise Coe became the first woman
18 elected to the New Mexico senate and, in 1935, became the first
19 female senate president pro tempore in New Mexico and in the
20 United States; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico Representatives Fedelina Gallegos and
22 Porfirria Hidalgo Saiz, who both served from 1931 to 1932, were
23 the first Hispanic female state legislators in the United
24 States; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1941, New Mexico Representative Concha Ortiz y

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1 Pino became the first female majority whip in the United
2 States; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1947, Georgia Lee Witt Lusk of New Mexico's
4 first district became the first woman from New Mexico to serve
5 in the United States house of representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1959, Virginia Klinekole became the first
7 female president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1972, Consuela Jaramillo Kitzes Burrell became
9 New Mexico's first Hispanic female state senator; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1984, Mary Walters became the first woman
11 appointed to the New Mexico supreme court, serving through the
12 end of 1988; and

13 WHEREAS, Pauline Eisenstadt became the first woman to
14 serve in both New Mexico legislative chambers, having served in
15 the house of representatives from 1985 to 1992 and in the
16 senate from 1997 to 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, Lynda Morgan Lovejoy, who became the first Native
18 American woman in the New Mexico house of representatives in
19 1989, later served in the New Mexico senate and is the first
20 Native American woman to serve in both chambers; and

21 WHEREAS, Debbie Jaramillo became the first female mayor of
22 the city of Santa Fe in 1994, and in 2016, Tonita Gurule-Giron
23 became the first female mayor of Las Vegas, New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton became
25 the first African American woman to serve in the New Mexico

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1 house of representatives in 1995 and the first African American
2 floor leader in the legislature; and

3 WHEREAS, Gloria Tristani, who in 1997 was appointed to the
4 federal communications commission, became the first Hispanic
5 woman elected to the state corporation commission in 1995; and

6 WHEREAS, Mary Jane M. Garcia became the New Mexico
7 senate's first Hispanic female majority whip in 1996; and

8 WHEREAS, Patricia Madrid became New Mexico's first female
9 attorney general in 1998; and

10 WHEREAS, Heather Wilson, from New Mexico's first district,
11 became the first female veteran in the United States house of
12 representatives in 1998; and

13 WHEREAS, Diane Denish became New Mexico's first female
14 lieutenant governor, having served two terms from 2003 to 2011;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, in 2011, Susana Martinez became the first female
17 Hispanic governor in New Mexico and in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2013, Michelle Lujan Grisham, from New
19 Mexico's first district, became the first Hispanic woman to
20 represent New Mexico in the United States house of
21 representatives; and

22 WHEREAS, one hundred thirty-four women have served in the
23 New Mexico house of representatives, and thirty women have
24 served in the senate; and

25 WHEREAS, no woman has served as long as Representative

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1 Debbie A. Rodella, who is the longest-serving woman to have
2 served in the New Mexico legislature and who is still adding to
3 her tenure, which began in 1993; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico is distinguished for having many
5 political female "firsts";

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all New Mexico
8 women who have been elected to and served in political office
9 be honored; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
11 recognize that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked
12 to the potential of New Mexico to generate economic growth,
13 sustainable democracy and inclusive security; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, March 8, 2017, be
15 recognized as "International Women's Day" in the house of
16 representatives.