

1 HOUSE MEMORIAL 8
2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY
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10 A MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING JANUARY 17, 2019 "ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES.
13

14 WHEREAS, there are more than forty-two thousand Asian
15 Americans living in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are among the fastest-growing and
17 emerging communities of color in New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, Asian Americans in New Mexico come from
19 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India,
20 Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,
21 Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet and Vietnam,
22 as well as other locations; and

23 WHEREAS, Asian Americans have worked on the railroads and
24 in agriculture in New Mexico since the nineteenth century and
25 fought bravely in World War I, World War II, the Korean and

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1 Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War and in Afghanistan and Iraq and
2 have received congressional medals of honor, purple hearts and
3 other military commendations; and

4 WHEREAS, this year represents the fifty-fourth anniversary
5 of the passage of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act
6 of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the
7 foot of the statue of liberty on October 3, 1965; and

8 WHEREAS, the Chinese American citizens alliance, including
9 its Albuquerque chapter, the Asian American association of New
10 Mexico and the Japanese American citizens league thank the New
11 Mexico legislature for its leadership in the 1882 project,
12 seeking an apology from congress for passage of a series of
13 laws, including the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which was not
14 repealed until 1943; and

15 WHEREAS, prior to passage of the federal Immigration and
16 Nationality Act of 1965, Asians were greatly affected by the
17 Chinese Exclusion Act, which restricted immigration of Chinese
18 laborers and forbade the naturalization of Chinese immigrants;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Asians also were affected by the federal
21 Immigration Act of 1917, which designated an "Asiatic barred
22 zone" of much of eastern Asia and the Pacific islands from
23 which people could not immigrate to the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of
25 1965 enabled Asian family reunification, civil rights and equal

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1 protection under the law that had been denied for over sixty
2 years; and

3 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201, passed by
4 unanimous consent, including New Mexico Senators Jeff Bingaman
5 and Tom Udall, on October 6, 2011, acknowledged that the
6 exclusion laws were incompatible with a basic founding
7 principle of the United States: that all persons are created
8 equal; and

9 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201 further
10 expressed deep regret for six decades of legislation
11 specifically targeting persons of Asian descent, barring them
12 from naturalization and immigration and denying them civil
13 rights and equal protection under the law; and

14 WHEREAS, United States House of Representatives Resolution
15 683, expressing the regret of the house of representatives for
16 the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the
17 United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, was
18 supported by Congressmen Martin T. Heinrich, Steve Pearce and
19 Ben R. Lujan; the resolution was placed on the suspension
20 calendar and passed unanimously by the one hundred twelfth
21 congress by voice vote on June 8, 2012; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico Senator Cisco McSorley sponsored and
23 led the repeal of the Alien Land Law from the constitution of
24 New Mexico during the first session of the forty-seventh
25 legislature in 2005, which law prohibited land ownership by all

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1 immigrants ineligible for United States citizenship; and

2 WHEREAS, the repeal of these laws affirms the
3 responsibility of congress and the New Mexico legislature to
4 safeguard the civil rights and constitutional protections of
5 all Americans, regardless of their race or ethnicity; and

6 WHEREAS, Asian Americans contribute greatly to the economy
7 of New Mexico with their labor, industry, businesses and
8 purchasing power; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are contributing their unique
10 culture, customs and traditions to the already richly diverse
11 culture of New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, Asians are a strong part of the narrative and
13 historical context of New Mexico and deserve to have their
14 humanity in all its shapes and forms be recognized;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 17,
17 2019 be declared "Asian American Day" in the house of
18 representatives; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the Asian American association of New Mexico and
21 the New Mexico Asian family center.