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HOUSE MEMORIAL 45

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Georgene Louis

A MEMORIAL

HONORING THE FIRST PUEBLO VOTER ACTIVIST, MIGUEL TRUJILLO, AND
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE AUGUST 3, 2020
"MIGUEL TRUJILLO DAY" IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Native American people of New Mexico were not
considered citizens of the United States in New Mexico until
1924; and

WHEREAS, the pueblo nations of New Mexico and Native
American people of New Mexico are proud to recognize that
August 3, 2018 marked the seventieth anniversary of Native
American voting rights in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, native people were denied the right to vote in
New Mexico before 1948, and such denial was part of the
constitution of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, enacted in 1912, the constitution of New Mexico

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1 denied Native American New Mexicans suffrage based on Article
2 7, Section 1; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1948, Miguel Trujillo, member of the Pueblo of
4 Isleta and a United States marine veteran, challenged the
5 infringement on his ability to vote, and because of his
6 inability to lawfully cast his vote, brought a lawsuit in
7 federal court against the Valencia county registrar titled
8 *Trujillo v. Garley*; and

9 WHEREAS, on August 3, 1948, the three-judge federal
10 district court in *Trujillo v. Garley* found that New Mexico had
11 discriminated against Indians by restricting the vote on the
12 basis that Indians had paid all state and federal taxes except
13 private property taxes on the reservations:

14 "The New Mexico constitution says that Indians not taxed
15 may not vote, although they possess every other
16 qualification. We are unable to escape the conclusion
17 that under the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments
18 constitutes discrimination on the ground of race. Any
19 other citizen, regardless of race, in the state of New
20 Mexico who has not paid one cent of tax of any kind or
21 character, if he possesses the other qualifications, may
22 vote. An Indian, and only an Indian, in order to meet the
23 qualification of a vote must have paid a tax. How can you
24 escape the conclusion that makes a requirement with
25 respect to an Indian as a qualification to exercise the

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1 elective franchise and does not make that requirement to
2 the member of any other race is beyond me? I just feel
3 that the conclusion is inescapable."; and

4 WHEREAS, as a result of this ruling, Miguel Trujillo was
5 allowed to register to vote, thus setting a precedent for the
6 future of Native American voting rights in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, it is important for the history of New Mexico
8 that the memory and legacy of Miguel Trujillo be honored and
9 that he be remembered as a hero in advancing the rights of
10 Native American voters; and

11 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Native American New Mexico
12 suffrage be taught in the New Mexico public schools embracing
13 the struggles and victory demonstrated by Miguel Trujillo;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be
16 requested to declare August 3, 2020 "Miguel Trujillo Day" in
17 New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Miguel Trujillo be recognized
19 and honored as the first pueblo voter activist; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of Indian affairs
22 and the twenty-three federally recognized Native American
23 tribes of New Mexico.