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HOUSE MEMORIAL 58

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

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Trujillo and Andrea Romero and Kelly K. Fajardo and  
Rebecca Dow and Gail Armstrong

A MEMORIAL

HONORING NEW MEXICO FEMALE ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REQUESTING THE  
GOVERNOR TO DECLARE MARCH 8, 2020 "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"  
IN NEW MEXICO.

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 seven hundred  
sixty-four 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, the United States congress passed the nineteenth  
11 amendment to the United States constitution supporting women's  
12 suffrage rights in June 1919, and at least thirty-six states  
13 needed to vote in favor of the amendment for it to become law;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, on February 21, 1920, New Mexico voted to ratify  
16 the nineteenth amendment to the United States constitution, and  
17 by August 1920, thirty-six states, including New Mexico,  
18 ratified the amendment, ensuring the right to vote could not be  
19 denied based on gender; and

20 WHEREAS, following New Mexico's statehood in 1912,  
21 Representative Bertha Paxton became the first woman elected to  
22 the New Mexico legislature in 1923; and

23 WHEREAS, Soledad Chacon was New Mexico's first female  
24 secretary of state, serving from 1923 through 1926, and the  
25 first female to act as governor for a substantial period of

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1 time in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1925, Louise Coe became the first woman  
3 elected to the New Mexico senate and, in 1935, became the first  
4 female senate president pro tempore in New Mexico and in the  
5 United States; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico Representatives Fedelina Gallegos and  
7 Porfirria Hidalgo Saiz, who both served from 1931 to 1932, were  
8 the first Hispanic female state legislators in the United  
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1941, New Mexico Representative Concha Ortiz y  
11 Pino de Kleven became the first female majority whip in the  
12 United States; and

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, in 1984, Mary Walters became the first woman  
21 appointed to the New Mexico supreme court, serving through the  
22 end of 1988; and

23 WHEREAS, Pauline Eisenstadt became the first woman to  
24 serve in both New Mexico legislative chambers, having served in  
25 the house of representatives from 1985 to 1992 and in the

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1 senate from 1997 to 2000; and

2 WHEREAS, Lynda Morgan Lovejoy, who became the first Native  
3 American woman in the New Mexico house of representatives in  
4 1989, later served in the New Mexico senate and is the first  
5 Native American woman to serve in both chambers; and

6 WHEREAS, Debbie Jaramillo, elected mayor of Santa Fe in  
7 1994, became the first female mayor in New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton became  
9 the first African American woman to serve in the New Mexico  
10 house of representatives in 1995 and the first African American  
11 floor leader in the legislature; and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Diane Denish became New Mexico's first female  
23 lieutenant governor, having served two terms from 2003 to 2011;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, in 2011, Susana Martinez became the first female

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1 Hispanic governor in New Mexico and in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2013, Michelle Lujan Grisham, from New  
3 Mexico's first district, became the first Hispanic woman to  
4 represent New Mexico in the United States house of  
5 representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2018, Michelle Lujan Grisham was elected the  
7 thirty-second governor of New Mexico and became the first  
8 Democratic Latina to be elected governor in United States  
9 history; and

10 WHEREAS, one hundred forty-two women have served in the  
11 New Mexico house of representatives, and thirty-one women have  
12 served in the senate; and

13 WHEREAS, by the end of 2020, Representative Sheryl  
14 Williams Stapleton and Representative Debbie A. Rodella will be  
15 the longest-serving women to have served in the New Mexico  
16 legislature; and

17 WHEREAS, the following women have served as legislators in  
18 the house of representatives since statehood: Ruby V.  
19 Appelman, Frances P. Armijo, Deborah A. Armstrong, Gail  
20 Armstrong, Janice E. Arnold-Jones, Marsha C. Atkin, E. Shirley  
21 Baca, Patricia V. Baca, Karen C. Bash, Blanche Alice Bell,  
22 Rachel A. Black, T. "Tweeti" Blanchett, Cathrynn N. Brown,  
23 Luella McGaffey Brown, Mrs. R.W.D. Bryan, Micaela Lara Cadena,  
24 Barbara A. Perea Casey, Maria Cavanaugh, Soledad Chacon,  
25 Christine Chandler, Gail Chasey, Eleanor Chavez, Susie Chavez,

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1 Sharon Clahchischilliage, Kandy Cordova, Jane Hyde Cospers, Anna  
2 M. Crook, Dara A. Dana, Ollibel C. Dickinson, Patricia  
3 Dominguez, Rebecca Dow, Claire Dowden, Carmen R. Cornell Dyche,  
4 Nora Espinoza, Calla K. (Wolfe) Eyler, Candy Spence Ezzell,  
5 Kelly K. Fajardo, Joanne J. Ferrary, Natalie Figueroa, Minerva  
6 E. Foraker, Justine Fox-Young, Doreen Y. Gallegos, Fedelina  
7 Gallegos, Mary Helen Garcia, Stephanie Garcia Richard, Joy  
8 Garratt, Rita G. Getty, Karen E. Giannini, Toots Green,  
9 Ernestine D. Evans Griego, Pauline K. Gubbels, Joni Marie  
10 Gutierrez, Lois R. Hall, Dianne Miller Hamilton, Yvette  
11 Herrell, Susan K. Herrera, Pat I. Heth, Dayan Hochman-Vigil,  
12 Violet Hoffman, Margaret Hogrefe, Hilda Honeyfield, Norma D.  
13 Hood, Louise W. Hoover, Adele Cinelli Hundley, Dona G. Irwin,  
14 Sandra D. Jeff, D. Wonda Johnson, Elizabeth C. Johnson, Emily  
15 Kane, Rhonda S. King, Virginia A. Kittell, Patsy Trujillo  
16 Knauer, Martha L. (Marty) Lambert, Nancy Lane, Anna S. Larkin,  
17 Idalia Lechuga-Tena, Sharlyn Linard, Georgene Louis, Ida V.  
18 Love, Patricia A. Lundstrom, Lisa L. Lutz, Mary Lou Lyon, Sarah  
19 Maestas Barnes, Stephanie Maez, Bobbie K. Mallory, Irene Seward  
20 Mann, Cecilia Rosales Masters, Marian Matthews, Kathy A. McCoy,  
21 Susan McDowell, Muriel McNeill, Margaret Neal, Concha Ortiz y  
22 Pino de Kleven, Charlotte Palmer, Bertha M. Paxton, Vickie  
23 Perea, Angie Vigil Perez, Danice R. Picraux, Pauline J. Ponce,  
24 Marion Portwood, Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert, Judith A. Pratt,  
25 Viola K. Reynolds, Louise L. Ringler, Earlene Roberts, Debbie

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1 A. Rodella, May M. Rogers, Andrea Romero, Patricia Roybal  
2 Caballero, Angelica Rubio, Harriet Ruiz, Judy Vanderstar  
3 Russell, Porfirria Hidalgo Saiz, Debra M. Sariñana, DeLoma A.  
4 Scott, Mary H. Skeen, Ruth Soper, Melanie A. Stansbury, Sheryl  
5 Williams Stapleton, Mimi Stewart, Clara F. Strong, Candie G.  
6 Sweetser, Ruth Taichert, Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Lillian  
7 Thompson, Mary L. Thompson, Carol Wicks Tinker, Sandra L.  
8 Townsend, Blanche S. Trigg, Christine Trujillo, Linda M.  
9 Trujillo, Mary Tucker, Shirley A. Tyler, Linn J. Tytler, Gloria  
10 C. Vaughn, Jeannette O. Wallace, Helen Wells, ImaLee Wells,  
11 Darla Whitney-Welles, Avon W. Wilson, Delores C. Wright, Monica  
12 Youngblood and Teresa A. Zanetti; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2017, the New Mexico house of representatives  
14 voted three diverse women into leadership positions: Majority  
15 Floor Leader Sheryl Williams Stapleton, African American;  
16 Caucus Chair D. Wonda Johnson, Native American; and Majority  
17 Whip Doreen Y. Gallegos, Hispanic; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico is distinguished nationally for having  
19 many political female "firsts";

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

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives  
25 recognize that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked

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1 to the potential of New Mexico to generate economic growth,  
2 sustainable democracy and inclusive security; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
4 declare March 8, 2020 "International Women's Day" in New  
5 Mexico.