

1 A MEMORIAL
2 CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CATRON COUNTY.

3
4 WHEREAS, settlement in the Catron county region dates to
5 some of the earliest in the Americas; and

6 WHEREAS, during the Clovis period between 10999 B.C. and
7 8000 B.C. and the Folsom period between 7999 B.C. and 5999
8 B.C., the Ake site was occupied near Datil; and

9 WHEREAS, Bat Cave, near Horse Springs, was occupied
10 around 3500 B.C.; and

11 WHEREAS, the Mimbres culture was part of the Mogollon
12 people, who lived throughout the Catron county area from 1000
13 to 1130 A.D.; and

14 WHEREAS, the art of the Mimbres culture is renowned for
15 its beauty; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1598, the region was declared part of a
17 province in New Spain and remained in Spanish control until
18 Mexico's declaration of independence in 1821; and

19 WHEREAS, Mexico ceded the region to the United States in
20 1848; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1880, Sergeant James C. Cooney was the first
22 person to find silver and gold ore in the mountains of Catron
23 county; and

24 WHEREAS, four years later, self-appointed Sheriff Elfego
25 Baca was the hero of the Frisco shootout in San Francisco

1 plaza; and

2 WHEREAS, in the mid-1880s, Butch Cassidy and his wild
3 bunch gang holed up at a ranch near Alma, New Mexico, and
4 notorious outlaw Tom Ketchum also lived in Catron county
5 around that time; and

6 WHEREAS, writer and cattle rancher Agnes Morley
7 Cleaveland authored the critically acclaimed *No Life for a*
8 *Lady* about growing up on a New Mexico ranch in the late
9 1800s; and

10 WHEREAS, Agnes helped manage her stepfather's ranch near
11 Datil, and Agnes died in Datil in 1958; and

12 WHEREAS, Catron county's lands were part of Socorro
13 county from the creation of Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico until
14 February 25, 1921; and

15 WHEREAS, Catron county was named for Thomas B. Catron, a
16 leading figure in New Mexico statehood and New Mexico's first
17 United States senator; and

18 WHEREAS, Catron county is the largest county in land
19 size in New Mexico, but has the third smallest population of
20 approximately three thousand five hundred people; and

21 WHEREAS, Catron county covers almost seven thousand
22 square miles and contains mostly rugged mountainous terrain;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, less than twenty percent of the land in Catron
25 county is privately owned, with the balance being public

1 land;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
4 centennial anniversary of Catron county be celebrated; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the independent and
6 resourceful residents of Catron county be joined in
7 recognizing Catron county's long and fascinating history; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the members of the board of county
10 commissioners of Catron county. _____

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