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HOUSE MEMORIAL 5

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO STUDY AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMORIALIZING AND PRESERVING THE BIRTHPLACE OF DOLORES HUERTA.

WHEREAS, activist and labor leader Dolores Fernandez, better known as Dolores Huerta, was born April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta is a Mexican-American social activist and labor leader who has spent a lifetime representing those who do not have power or a voice; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's own experiences of discrimination and her innate sense of justice and a desire to help others led her to join forces with Cesar Chavez; and

WHEREAS, together, through nonviolent protest and a

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1 nationally and internationally successful grape strike, they  
2 changed the way people who were striking were treated; and

3 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta worked to improve social and  
4 economic conditions for farm workers and to fight  
5 discrimination; and

6 WHEREAS, to further her cause, Dolores Huerta created the  
7 agricultural workers association in 1960 and co-founded what  
8 would become the united farm workers; and

9 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta set up voter registration drives  
10 and lobbied politicians to allow non-United States citizen  
11 migrant workers to receive public assistance and pensions and  
12 to provide Spanish-language voting ballots and driver's tests;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta, a skilled community organizer,  
15 traveled from poverty to political victory and became the  
16 second Mexican-American woman in history to be honored with the  
17 presidential medal of freedom; and

18 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's birthplace, Dawson, is located  
19 about seventeen miles northeast of Cimarron and was the site of  
20 two separate coal mining disasters; and

21 WHEREAS, the mining town was abandoned and became a ghost  
22 town in 1950; and

23 WHEREAS, legislators have expressed an interest in  
24 preserving Dawson and possibly creating a museum; and

25 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has expressed support of lawmakers

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1 seeking to restore her birthplace, while requesting that any  
2 effort should also focus on the labor history of the mining  
3 town;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the general  
6 services department and the historic preservation division of  
7 the cultural affairs department be requested to study and  
8 develop recommendations for memorializing and preserving the  
9 birthplace of Dolores Huerta; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the general services  
11 department and the historic preservation division of the  
12 cultural affairs department be requested to present their  
13 recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative  
14 committee by October 1, 2022; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretary of general services, the secretary  
17 of cultural affairs and Dolores Huerta.