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A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING FEBRUARY 6, 2023 AS "VALENCIA COUNTY DAY" IN  
THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, Valencia county is part of the Rio Abajo; and

WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the largest  
matanza in the United States, and the matanza is a symbol of  
the rich Spanish heritage of the Rio Grande valley; and

WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the famous Tome  
land grant, which the king of Spain granted to thirty  
families in 1739; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas was founded by  
Spaniards in the seventeenth century; and

WHEREAS, Belen is officially known as "Nuestra Señora de  
Belen", or "Our Lady of Belen"; and

WHEREAS, Belen means "Bethlehem" in Spanish; and

WHEREAS, Belen was a strategic point along the Camino  
Real, also known as the "Royal Road", which carved a trade  
route south into Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Belen has gained the nickname "hub city" because of  
the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe  
railway, now known as the BNSF railway company; and

WHEREAS, Bosque Farms was a destination for relocated  
dust bowl refugees; and

WHEREAS, Bosque Farms strives to be a sparsely

1 populated, agricultural community; and

2 WHEREAS, Peralta was the site of a minor engagement  
3 during the American civil war; and

4 WHEREAS, Rio Communities is home to Valencia county's  
5 only golf course, Tierra del Sol; and

6 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to the decalogue stone,  
7 which contains an inscription that is interpreted to be an  
8 abridged version of the ten commandments in a form of the  
9 Paleo-Hebrew alphabet; and

10 WHEREAS, Valencia county houses two museums, the Belen  
11 Harvey house museum and the Los Lunas museum of heritage and  
12 arts; and

13 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to parts of the Cibola  
14 national forest and the Manzano wilderness; and

15 WHEREAS, Valencia county is renowned for its  
16 agriculture; and

17 WHEREAS, Valencia county hosts the United States'  
18 largest matanza, a family fun event that raises funds to  
19 provide scholarships to students while preserving Valencia  
20 county traditions by promoting and enhancing local business  
21 development through civic, social, cultural and employment  
22 training programs;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 6, 2023 be commemorated as  
25 "Valencia County Day" in the senate; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the mayors of Belen, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms, Peralta and Rio Communities. \_\_\_\_\_