

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 9

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

John Arthur Smith

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS TO WORK WITH THE OWNERS OF THE SHAKESPEARE GHOST TOWN AND ASSESS WHETHER THE GHOST TOWN SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS A NEW MEXICO STATE MONUMENT.

WHEREAS, the Shakespeare ghost town is the remains of a pioneer southwestern town; and

WHEREAS, from a small settlement on the stage and emigrant trail to California, by 1870 the ghost town grew to considerable size under the name of Ralston City or the Burro Mines; and

WHEREAS, in 1879, other mine promoters changed the name of the town to Shakespeare and, under this name, the town prospered as a mining camp until the 1893 depression; and

WHEREAS, during the 1908-1932 mining boom, the remaining buildings in Shakespeare were again occupied, and the events

.131547.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 during this period added considerably to the town's
2 reputation for lawlessness; and

3 WHEREAS, Shakespeare is older than any neighboring town
4 and, with its highly publicized mining booms, attracted many
5 people and so contributed greatly to the settlement of
6 Lordsburg, New Mexico and the surrounding area; and

7 WHEREAS, the town site has been owned since 1935 by the
8 Hill family, and they have tried to preserve the old
9 buildings and history without commercializing the ghost town;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, in November 1999, the Shakespeare ghost town
12 grant house, general merchandise building, old mail station
13 building and Shakespeare ghost town building fire protection
14 system were designated by the national trust for historic
15 preservation as official projects of save America's
16 treasures; and

17 WHEREAS, in January 1999, the New Mexico heritage
18 preservation alliance selected the Shakespeare ghost town to
19 be on the list of New Mexico's most endangered places because
20 it is a significant historic resource that is under imminent
21 threat of being lost;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of cultural affairs be
24 requested to work with the owners of the Shakespeare ghost
25 town to assess whether the ghost town should be designated as
a New Mexico state monument; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 transmitted to the state cultural affairs officer and to the
2 owners of the Shakespeare ghost town.

3 - 3 -
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25