

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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

HOUSE MEMORIAL 40

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF GENIZAROS IN NEW MEXICO HISTORY AND
THEIR LEGACY.

WHEREAS, indigenous captivity and servitude were common in
frontier society that became New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, various indigenous peoples, including Apache,
Dine (Navajo), Pawnee, Ute and Comanche, were captured; and

WHEREAS, indigenous people became part of New Mexican
communities and households through capture in war, kidnapping,
trade fairs, punishment for crimes, adoption, abandonment and
the sale of children; and

WHEREAS, baptismal records reveal that at least four
thousand six hundred one captive indigenous persons were
baptized between the years 1700 and 1880, becoming part of
Spanish, Mexican and territorial households; and

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, numerous primary source records document the
2 captivity, presence and experience of indigenous people
3 displaced in this way, including marriage records, court cases,
4 wills and censuses; and

5 WHEREAS, the experiences of captives, while varied,
6 included being raised and serving within households, and
7 sometimes remaining in a captor's home for a lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, the practice of taking Indian captives lasted
9 through the Mexican and into the American period in New Mexico;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, there were many terms to describe Indian
12 captivity and servitude in New Mexico, including "cautivos",
13 "criados", "coyotes" and "famulos" but the most common used
14 prior to 1821 and into the Spanish colonial period was the term
15 "genizaro"; and

16 WHEREAS, the term "genizaro" derives from the Turkish word
17 "yeniceri" or "janissary", terms used to describe Christian
18 captives who, as children, had been forcibly abducted, traded
19 and trained as the nucleus of the Ottoman empire's standing
20 army; and

21 WHEREAS, genizaro families could be found in various
22 communities throughout the colony, including the major villages
23 of Albuquerque, Santa Cruz de la Canada, Santa Fe and El Paso
24 del Norte; and

25 WHEREAS, in the mid-eighteenth century, many genizaros

.168415.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 were again relocated strategically at the edges of Hispanic
2 communities, thus providing both an initial line of defense
3 against raiders and the foundation for communities such as
4 Abiquiu, Belen, Carnuel, Las Trampas, Ojo Caliente, Ranchos de
5 Taos, San Miguel del Vado and Tome; and

6 WHEREAS, by 1776, genizaros comprised at least one-third
7 of the entire population of the province; and

8 WHEREAS, genizaros and their descendants have participated
9 in all aspects of the social, political, military and economic
10 life of New Mexico during the Spanish, Mexican and American
11 periods; and

12 WHEREAS, eventually the migration patterns of cautivos and
13 genizaros paralleled that of all New Mexicans with communities
14 extending southward to El Paso del Norte (Ciudad Juarez) and
15 northern Chihuahua, Mexico, as well as northward in Colorado
16 and beyond; and

17 WHEREAS, the direct result of the Indian slave trade was
18 the emergence of generations of racial and cultural mixtures
19 often referred to in the colonial period with terms such as
20 coyotes, colores quebrados, lobos and mestizos; and

21 WHEREAS, many New Mexicans can trace their ancestry to
22 these indigenous peoples;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the important
25 role of genizaros and their descendants have had in the social,

.168415.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 economic, political and cultural milieu of New Mexico and the
2 United States be recognized; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
4 recognize the existence and importance of this indigenous group
5 and the presence and importance of its descendants today; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the office of the state historian.

8 - 4 -

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25