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HOUSE MEMORIAL 29

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Luciano "Lucky" Varela

A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING COMPLETION OF THE NEW MEXICO HISTORIC WOMEN MARKER INITIATIVE BY THE NEW MEXICO WOMEN'S FORUM TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL STATE AGENCIES AND REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CENTENNIAL STEERING COMMITTEE TO RECOGNIZE THESE HISTORIC WOMEN IN THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

WHEREAS, in 2006, the important contributions by women to the state of New Mexico were noticeably absent from the over five hundred historic markers along New Mexico's highways; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that many women of courage, vision and fortitude have contributed to New Mexico and its people throughout the state's long history; and

WHEREAS, encouraged and supported by the New Mexico women's forum, some forum members, including Beverly Duran, Patricia French and Alexis Girard, undertook a significant

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1 legislative initiative to establish a public-private  
2 partnership between the department of transportation, the  
3 historic preservation division and the cultural properties  
4 review committee of the cultural affairs department and the  
5 state historian to address this grave oversight; and

6 WHEREAS, a key factor of the initiative was to recognize  
7 and honor those deceased women whose contributions exemplified  
8 the great spirit of New Mexico and whose legacies would serve  
9 as historical reminders for future generations; and

10 WHEREAS, the criteria for nomination and selection of a  
11 candidate to be recognized on a historic marker required  
12 documentation of the historical significance of a woman's  
13 social, educational, political, architectural, artistic or  
14 other notable contribution to her community and to the state,  
15 the southwest or the nation; and

16 WHEREAS, the 2006 historic women marker selection  
17 committee, composed of representatives from the department of  
18 transportation, the New Mexico association of counties, the  
19 commission on the status of women, the historic preservation  
20 division of the cultural affairs department, the New Mexico  
21 women's forum and the general public, sought nominations and  
22 urged community input from local organizations of women and  
23 other groups and individuals knowledgeable about local history  
24 and the contributions of women in particular; and

25 WHEREAS, the nominations were submitted to tribal

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1 governments and county managers in September 2006, and the  
2 respective governments judged the nominations and made  
3 recommendations to the historic women marker selection  
4 committee for review and recommendation to the cultural  
5 properties review committee of the cultural affairs department  
6 for its review and approval; and

7 WHEREAS, the early efforts of the New Mexico women's forum  
8 to achieve bipartisan support engendered such support from  
9 Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela, Senators Stuart Ingle,  
10 Sue Wilson Beffort, Dianna J. Duran, Gay G. Kernan and H. Diane  
11 Snyder, First Lady Barbara and Governor Bill Richardson and  
12 other members of the executive cabinet; and

13 WHEREAS, the initiative initially sought to erect fifty-  
14 four markers to represent the contributions of New Mexico women  
15 from each county and from every Indian pueblo, tribe and  
16 nation, with the legislators and the governor contributing  
17 capital outlay funds for the project; and

18 WHEREAS, the number of markers that were actually erected  
19 was increased to sixty-six due to the careful management of the  
20 New Mexico women's forum and the creativity and support of the  
21 secretary of transportation, resulting in twelve more markers  
22 being erected than was initially anticipated; and

23 WHEREAS, historic markers have now been erected in all  
24 thirty-three counties to honor the women of those counties as  
25 well as women from the state's Indian pueblos, tribes and

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1 nation; and

2 WHEREAS, with the approach of New Mexico's centennial  
3 celebration in 2012, the New Mexico women's forum and all who  
4 participated in this important effort are pleased to have  
5 completed the project in time to honor the achievements of the  
6 over one hundred women reflected by the historic markers during  
7 New Mexico's one hundredth year;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
10 centennial steering committee be requested to include in the  
11 state's centennial celebration all the appropriate events and  
12 activities that acknowledge and honor the many women who have  
13 contributed so much to New Mexico as evidenced by the New  
14 Mexico historic women marker initiative; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house celebrate and honor  
16 the efforts of the New Mexico women's forum, the department of  
17 transportation, the state historian, the historic preservation  
18 division and the cultural properties review committee of the  
19 cultural affairs department and the historic women marker  
20 selection committee as well as the tireless efforts of  
21 countless New Mexicans who gave of their time and their  
22 expertise, those who shared their rich historical and cultural  
23 stories of grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts and friends  
24 and those researchers who devoted many long hours to  
25 researching the history of the women of New Mexico, thus

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1 enriching future generations; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the New Mexico women's forum, the secretary of  
4 transportation, the state historian, the secretary of cultural  
5 affairs and the members of the historic women marker selection  
6 committee.

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