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SENATE MEMORIAL 92

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

HONORING NEW MEXICO FEMALE ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DECLARING
MARCH 8, 2013 "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, international women's day, March 8, has been
celebrated around the world since 1909 and in the United States
since 1977; and

WHEREAS, this year's international women's day theme is
"The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum"; and

WHEREAS, on that day, thousands of events inspiring women
and celebrating their achievements will be held throughout the
world; and

WHEREAS, the first Hispanic female legislators in the
United States served in New Mexico's territorial legislature,
beginning in 1895; and

WHEREAS, following New Mexico's statehood in 1912,
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1 Representative Bertha Paxton became the first woman elected to
2 the New Mexico legislature in 1923; and

3 WHEREAS, Soledad Chacon, whose secretarial term ran from
4 1923 through 1926, was New Mexico's first female secretary of
5 state and the first female acting governor in the United
6 States; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1925, Louise Coe became the first woman
8 elected to the New Mexico senate and, in 1935, became the first
9 female senate pro tempore in New Mexico and in the United
10 States; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico Representatives Fedelina Gallegos and
12 Porfirria Hidalgo Saiz, who both served from 1931 to 1932, were
13 the first Hispanic female legislators in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1941, New Mexico Representative Concha Ortiz y
15 Pino became the first female majority whip in the United
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1947, Georgia Lee Witt Lusk of New Mexico's
18 first district became the first woman from New Mexico to serve
19 in the United States house of representatives; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1959, Virginia Klinekole became the first
21 female president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1972, Consuela Jaramillo Kitzes Burrell became
23 New Mexico's first Hispanic female state senator; and

24 WHEREAS, Pauline Eisenstadt became the first woman to
25 serve in both New Mexico legislative chambers, having served in

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1 the house of representatives from 1985 to 1992 and in the
2 senate from 1997 to 2000; and

3 WHEREAS, Lynda Morgan Lovejoy, who became the first Native
4 American woman in the New Mexico house of representatives in
5 1989, later served in the New Mexico senate and is the first
6 Native American woman to serve in both chambers; and

7 WHEREAS, Debbie Jaramillo became the first female mayor of
8 the city of Santa Fe in 1994; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton became
10 the first African American woman to serve in the New Mexico
11 house of representatives in 1995; and

12 WHEREAS, Gloria Tristani, who in 1997 was appointed to the
13 federal communications commission, became the first Hispanic
14 woman elected to the state corporation commission in 1995; and

15 WHEREAS, Mary Jane M. Garcia became the New Mexico
16 senate's first Hispanic female majority whip in 1996; and

17 WHEREAS, Patricia Madrid became New Mexico's first female
18 attorney general in 1998; and

19 WHEREAS, Heather Wilson, from New Mexico's first district,
20 became the first female veteran in the United States house of
21 representatives in 1998; and

22 WHEREAS, Diane Denish became New Mexico's first female
23 lieutenant governor, having served two terms from 2003 to 2011;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, in 2011, Susana Martinez became the first female

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1 and Hispanic governor in New Mexico and in the United States;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in 2013, Michelle Lujan Grisham, from New
4 Mexico's first district, became the first Hispanic woman in the
5 United States house of representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, one hundred twenty women have served in the New
7 Mexico house of representatives and twenty-eight women have
8 served in the senate; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico is distinguished for having many
10 political female "firsts";

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that all New Mexico women who have been elected
13 to and served in political office be honored; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Friday, March 8, 2013, be
15 recognized as "International Women's Day" in the senate; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the commission on the status of women, the New
18 Mexico women's forum, the state historian and the cultural
19 affairs department.