

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 4, 2015 "LINCOLN COUNTY DAY" AT THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Hollywood has made millions of dollars based on
films set in the beauty, adventure and drama of the historical
American west; and

WHEREAS, the actual history of Lincoln county, New
Mexico, rivals and outshines the best script Hollywood has
ever produced; and

WHEREAS, being central to the original territory
occupied by the Mescalero bands of the Apache people and
representing the western edge of the Comanche territory, the
mountains and canyons of Lincoln county stood witness as
Apaches and Comanches and succeeding waves of Spanish, Mexican
and Anglo-American settlers competed, often violently, for
land and water; and

WHEREAS, the post-Civil War era saw a boom in the
western cattle industry, and by the mid-1870s, two rival
"rings" had formed to compete for land, water and power within
Lincoln county; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 1878, the murder of one
ringleader, John Tunstall, by a posse deputized by Sheriff
William Brady and the subsequent revenge killing of Sheriff
Brady on April 1, 1878 began the infamous Lincoln county war;

and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln county war was conducted by men with colorful names, such as "Buckshot" Anderson, "Dash" Wait, "Big Jim" French and Billy "the Kid", and by groups known as the "Seven Rivers Boys", the "Jesse Evans Gang" and the "Regulators"; and

WHEREAS, many of the individuals in the Lincoln county war were known alternatively to have worn a sheriff's badge or to have been cattle rustlers and murderers at various points in their careers; and

WHEREAS, during the Capitan Gap fire in the spring of 1950, a bear cub was rescued by firefighters and became known as "Smokey Bear", Lincoln county's most famous native son; and

WHEREAS, Smokey Bear became a national symbol for forest fire prevention and the subject of the popular song "Smokey the Bear"; and

WHEREAS, Smokey Bear lived at the national zoo in Washington, D.C., for twenty-six years, was visited by thousands of schoolchildren, received so much fan mail that the United States postal service gave Smokey his own zip code, and he is now buried at Smokey Bear historical park in Capitan, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln county offers numerous opportunities for hiking, backpacking and skiing within dramatic mountain landscapes typified by Capitan peak and Sierra Blanca

mountain; and

WHEREAS, Ruidoso Downs within Lincoln county offers both thoroughbred and quarter horse racing, including the all-American futurity, the richest race in American quarter horse racing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Lincoln county be recognized as having one of the most colorful and intriguing histories in America, epitomizing the legend of the "Wild West" and as being a beautiful and exciting place to live and visit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 4, 2015 be declared "Lincoln County Day" in the house of representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the Lincoln county board of county commissioners.