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SENATE MEMORIAL 98

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING MARCH 6, 2015 "ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, there are more than thirty thousand Asians living in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Asians are among the fastest-growing minority groups in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Asians in New Mexico come from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Asians have worked on the railroads and in agriculture in New Mexico since the nineteenth century and fought bravely in World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War and in Afghanistan and Iraq and have received Congressional Medals of Honor, Purple Hearts and

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1 other military commendations; and

2 WHEREAS, this year represents the fiftieth anniversary of
3 the passage of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of
4 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the
5 foot of the statue of liberty on October 3, 1965; and

6 WHEREAS, prior to passage of the Immigration and
7 Nationality Act of 1965, Asians were greatly affected by the
8 Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, which restricted
9 immigration of Chinese laborers and forbade the naturalization
10 of Chinese immigrants; and

11 WHEREAS, Asians also were affected by the Immigration Act
12 of 1917, which designated an "Asiatic barred zone" of much of
13 eastern Asia and the Pacific islands from which people could
14 not immigrate; and

15 WHEREAS, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
16 enabled Chinese family reunification, civil rights and equal
17 protection under the law that had been denied for over sixty
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, the law linked persons of Chinese descent to all
20 American minorities and the basic founding principle of the
21 United States: that all persons are created equal; and

22 WHEREAS, Asians have contributed greatly to the economy of
23 New Mexico with their labor, industry, businesses and
24 purchasing power; and

25 WHEREAS, Asians are contributing their unique culture,

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1 customs and traditions to the already richly diverse culture of
2 New Mexico;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that March 6, 2015 be declared "Asian American
5 Day" in the senate; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the Asian American association of New Mexico.