

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 4, 2016 "LINCOLN COUNTY DAY" AT THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, Hollywood has made millions of dollars based on
6 films set in the beauty, adventure and drama of the
7 historical American west; and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, on February 18, 1878, the murder of one
23 ringleader, John Tunstall, by a posse deputized by Sheriff
24 William Brady and the subsequent revenge killing of Sheriff
25 Brady on April 1, 1878 began the infamous Lincoln County War;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, the Lincoln County War was conducted by men
3 with colorful names, such as "Buckshot" Anderson, "Dash"
4 Wait, "Big Jim" French and Billy "the Kid", and by groups
5 known as the "Seven Rivers Boys", the "Jesse Evans Gang" and
6 the "Regulators"; and

7 WHEREAS, many of the individuals in the Lincoln County
8 War were known alternatively to have worn a sheriff's badge
9 or to have been cattle rustlers and murderers at various
10 points in their careers; and

11 WHEREAS, during the Capitan Gap fire in the spring of
12 1950, a bear cub was rescued by firefighters and became known
13 as "Smokey Bear", Lincoln county's most famous native son;
14 and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Lincoln county offers numerous opportunities
25 for hiking, backpacking and skiing within dramatic mountain

1 landscapes typified by Capitan peak and Sierra Blanca
2 mountain; and

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

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

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 4, 2016 be declared
14 "Lincoln County Day" in the house of representatives; and

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