

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING MARCH 2, 2017 "ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE SENATE.

3
4 WHEREAS, there are more than thirty thousand Asians
5 living in New Mexico; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Asians have worked on the railroads and in
13 agriculture in New Mexico since the nineteenth century and
14 fought bravely in World War I, World War II, the Korean and
15 Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War and in Afghanistan and Iraq,
16 and they have received Congressional Medals of Honor, Purple
17 Hearts and other military commendations; and

18 WHEREAS, this year represents the fifty-second
19 anniversary of the passage of the federal Immigration and
20 Nationality Act of 1965, signed into law by President
21 Lyndon B. Johnson at the foot of the statue of liberty on
22 October 3, 1965; and

23 WHEREAS, prior to passage of the Immigration and
24 Nationality Act of 1965, Asians were greatly affected by the
25 Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, which restricted

1 immigration of Chinese laborers and forbade the
2 naturalization of Chinese immigrants; and

3 WHEREAS, Asians also were affected by the Immigration
4 Act of 1917, which designated an "Asiatic barred zone" of
5 much of eastern Asia and the Pacific islands from which
6 people could not immigrate; and

7 WHEREAS, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
8 enabled Chinese family reunification, civil rights and equal
9 protection under the law that had been denied for over sixty
10 years; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Asians have contributed greatly to the economy
15 of New Mexico with their labor, industry, businesses and
16 purchasing power; and

17 WHEREAS, Asians are contributing their unique culture,
18 customs and traditions to the already richly diverse culture
19 of New Mexico;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 2, 2017 be declared "Asian
22 American Day" in the senate; and

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