

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 92

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Eliseo Lee Alcon and D. Wonda Johnson

A MEMORIAL

SUPPORTING A TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT DEVOTED TO FORT WINGATE, ITS HISTORY AND ITS LONG-REACHING IMPACT.

WHEREAS, Fort Wingate has played a central role in the history of the southwest United States and its people, particularly in the areas of military, education and economic development; and

WHEREAS, in 1872 at Fort Wingate, Chief Manuelito, Thomas V. Kearns and General Otis Howard established the Navajo cavalry, composed of one hundred volunteers, thereby becoming the first Indian police force; and

WHEREAS, Fort Wingate served as the headquarters for Navajo Indian scouts from 1873 to 1890; and

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, of the many Navajos who served in the United
2 States military in the 1880s and 1890s, two women, Mexicana
3 Chiquita and Muchucha, became the first women to serve in
4 combat roles in the United States army; and

5 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate became a center for education and
6 research activities in the late nineteenth century; and

7 WHEREAS, innovators in the fields of anthropology,
8 archaeology, geology and botany used Fort Wingate as their
9 headquarters; and

10 WHEREAS, at Fort Wingate vocational high school, in May
11 1942, the first Navajo code talkers were recruited and sworn
12 into the United States marine corps; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1926, the Charles H. Burke vocational school
14 was established and, after numerous name changes and
15 relocations, became Wingate high school in 1965, with its
16 original location becoming Wingate elementary school; and

17 WHEREAS, the education provided to Navajo students of
18 Wingate high school and Wingate elementary school became the
19 foundation for gainful employment for many Navajo people; and

20 WHEREAS, the vocational programs at the high school
21 provided training in skills related to traditional Navajo life;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate provided employment to many Navajo
24 people, from workers who constructed the fort in the 1800s to
25 those who worked and currently work at the schools and offices;

.210259.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 and

2 WHEREAS, the approximately four hundred ninety-five acres
3 of real property proposed to be considered for the old Fort
4 Wingate national monument is under the exclusive jurisdiction
5 of the United States department of the interior's bureau of
6 Indian affairs; and

7 WHEREAS, with the planned demolition of several buildings
8 on the site, and with it the destruction of tangible Navajo
9 historical artifacts, a transfer in the near future is of
10 critical importance;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
13 congressional delegation be requested to support all efforts to
14 transfer the real property from the federal bureau of Indian
15 affairs to the national park service for the creation of a
16 national monument devoted to Fort Wingate, its history and its
17 long-reaching impact; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
20 delegation, the bureau of Indian affairs, the secretary of the
21 interior, the national park service, the McKinley county board
22 of commissioners, the speaker of the twenty-third Navajo Nation
23 council and the president of the Navajo Nation.