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SENATE MEMORIAL 82

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez and Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

A MEMORIAL

HONORING NEW MEXICO'S DAUGHTER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADER
DOLORES HUERTA AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 27, 2019 "DOLORES HUERTA
DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, las mujeres, incorporated, the south valley and
Barelas neighbors, neighborhood associations, coalitions and
numerous south valley businesses, residents and leaders are
joining together to honor one of New Mexico's daughters, civil
rights activist Dolores Huerta, with a street that bears her
name; and

WHEREAS, avenida Dolores Huerta will connect with avenida
Cesar Chavez, making it the only street in the nation to join
these two civil rights leaders, while making history and
attracting positive attention to the Dolores Huerta community,
state and nation; and

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1 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that these two leaders who
2 worked side by side for equality should be honored with
3 connecting avenues; and

4 WHEREAS, "avenue" by definition means a course of action
5 to be taken in order to approach, attain or gain access to
6 somebody or something; and

7 WHEREAS, the definition of avenue exemplifies the life's
8 work of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez, who worked tirelessly
9 to gain basic human rights for the disenfranchised; and

10 WHEREAS, as a farm laborer's daughter, Dolores Huerta
11 witnessed the brutal conditions under which her father,
12 brothers and nearly everyone she knew were forced to labor; and

13 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's own experiences of
14 discrimination and her innate sense of justice and a desire to
15 help others led her to join forces with Cesar Chavez; and

16 WHEREAS, together, through nonviolent protest and a
17 nationally and internationally successful grape strike, they
18 changed the way people who were striking were treated; and

19 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta worked to improve social and
20 economic conditions for farm workers and to fight
21 discrimination; and

22 WHEREAS, to further her cause, Dolores Huerta created the
23 agricultural workers association in 1960 and co-founded what
24 would become the united farm workers; and

25 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta set up voter registration drives

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1 and lobbied politicians to allow non-United States citizen
2 migrant workers to receive public assistance and pensions and
3 to provide Spanish-language voting ballots and driver's tests;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta, a skilled community organizer,
6 traveled from poverty to political victory and became the
7 second Mexican-American woman in history to be honored with the
8 presidential medal of freedom; and

9 WHEREAS, her namesake, the Dolores Huerta foundation,
10 brings organizing and training skills to low-income communities
11 by engaging and developing natural leaders; and

12 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta embodies the values of family,
13 community and land; and

14 WHEREAS, the naming of avenida Dolores Huerta is a unique
15 opportunity to showcase the contributions she has made to her
16 community, state and country;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Dolores Huerta be honored for her
19 fierce and tireless activism to gain basic human rights for the
20 poor and disenfranchised; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 27, 2019 be
22 designated "Dolores Huerta Day" in the senate; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to Dolores Huerta, the mayor of Albuquerque, the
25 Bernalillo county board of county commissioners and the city of

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1 Albuquerque city councilors.

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