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HOUSE MEMORIAL 16

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Armstrong

A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CATRON COUNTY.

WHEREAS, settlement in the Catron county region dates to some of the earliest in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, during the Clovis period between 10999 B.C. and 8000 B.C. and the Folsom period between 7999 B.C. and 5999 B.C., the Ake site was occupied near Datil; and

WHEREAS, Bat Cave, near Horse Springs, was occupied around 3500 B.C.; and

WHEREAS, the Mimbres culture was part of the Mogollon people, who lived throughout the Catron county area from 1000 to 1130 A.D.; and

WHEREAS, the art of the Mimbres culture is renowned for its beauty; and

WHEREAS, in 1598, the region was declared part of a

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1 province in New Spain and remained in Spanish control until
2 Mexico's declaration of independence in 1821; and

3 WHEREAS, Mexico ceded the region to the United States in
4 1848; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1880, Sergeant James C. Cooney was the first
6 person to find silver and gold ore in the mountains of Catron
7 county; and

8 WHEREAS, four years later, self-appointed Sheriff Elfego
9 Baca was the hero of the Frisco shootout in San Francisco
10 plaza; and

11 WHEREAS, in the mid-1880s, Butch Cassidy and his wild
12 bunch gang holed up at a ranch near Alma, New Mexico, and
13 notorious outlaw Tom Ketchum also lived in Catron county around
14 that time; and

15 WHEREAS, writer and cattle rancher Agnes Morley Cleaveland
16 authored the critically acclaimed *No Life for a Lady* about
17 growing up on a New Mexico ranch in the late 1800s; and

18 WHEREAS, Agnes helped manage her stepfather's ranch near
19 Datil, and Agnes died in Datil in 1958; and

20 WHEREAS, Catron county's lands were part of Socorro county
21 from the creation of Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico until February
22 25, 1921; and

23 WHEREAS, Catron county was named for Thomas B. Catron, a
24 leading figure in New Mexico statehood and New Mexico's first
25 United States senator; and

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1 WHEREAS, Catron county is the largest county in land size
2 in New Mexico, but has the third smallest population of
3 approximately three thousand five hundred people; and

4 WHEREAS, Catron county covers almost seven thousand square
5 miles and contains mostly rugged mountainous terrain; and

6 WHEREAS, less than twenty percent of the land in Catron
7 county is privately owned, with the balance being public land;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the centennial
10 anniversary of Catron county be celebrated; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the independent and
12 resourceful residents of Catron county be joined in recognizing
13 Catron county's long and fascinating history; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the members of the board of county commissioners
16 of Catron county.