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HOUSE MEMORIAL 10

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

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and Joshua A. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 6, 2025 "VALENCIA COUNTY DAY" IN THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Valencia county is part of the historic Rio Abajo
region; and

WHEREAS, in 1739, the king of Spain granted the famous
town of Tome land grant-merced to thirty families, establishing
a foundational community in what is now Valencia county; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas was founded by Spaniards
in the eighteenth century and has grown to become New Mexico's
second-fastest-growing community, experiencing expansive
population growth; and

WHEREAS, Belen, officially known as "Nuestra Senora de
Belen", was a strategic point along the Camino Real, also known
as "the Royal Road", which carved a trade route south into

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1 Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, Belen later became known as "the hub city" due to
3 the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad,
4 now known as the BNSF railway company; and

5 WHEREAS, Belen is home to the BNSF railway fuel station,
6 which plays a critical role in supporting the transport of
7 goods across the country, reinforcing the city's importance as
8 a major hub for logistics and commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, Peralta was the site of a minor engagement during
10 the American Civil War; and

11 WHEREAS, Bosque Farms became a destination for relocated
12 dust bowl refugees and continues to embrace its identity as a
13 sparsely populated agricultural community; and

14 WHEREAS, Rio Communities is home to Valencia county's only
15 golf course, Tierra del Sol, and continues to serve as a
16 recreational and residential destination; and

17 WHEREAS, agriculture remains a vital part of Valencia
18 county's identity and economy; and

19 WHEREAS, the original pre-1937 United States route 66 runs
20 through the heart of Valencia county, linking it to a rich
21 history of trade, transportation and cultural exchange; and

22 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to the decalogue stone,
23 which contains an inscription interpreted to be an abridged
24 version of the ten commandments in Paleo-Hebrew, adding to its
25 historical significance; and

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1 WHEREAS, Valencia county houses two prominent museums, the
2 Belen Harvey house museum and the Los Lunas museum of heritage
3 and arts, which preserve the history and cultural heritage of
4 the region; and

5 WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to parts of the Cibola
6 national forest and the Manzano mountain wilderness, providing
7 scenic beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

8 WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the largest
9 matanza in the world, a symbol of the rich Spanish heritage of
10 the Rio Grande valley, hosted annually by the Hispano chamber
11 of Valencia county to preserve traditions, promote local
12 businesses and raise funds for scholarships; and

13 WHEREAS, the greater Valencia county chamber of commerce
14 has played a pivotal role in driving business growth and
15 expansion in the region by fostering collaboration among local
16 businesses, providing valuable resources and supporting
17 initiatives that enhance economic development and community
18 prosperity; and

19 WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas has emerged as a
20 catalyst for industrial manufacturing, technological
21 advancement and economic development in New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, Valencia county is now a growing hub for
23 manufacturing and logistics, with major employers, such as
24 Meta, Amazon and Arcosa, driving job creation and economic
25 prosperity; and

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1 WHEREAS, Valencia county's central location,
2 transportation infrastructure and business-friendly environment
3 position it as a strong contender to become the new home of the
4 New Mexico state fair, providing economic benefits to the state
5 and enhancing the region's tourism and community engagement
6 opportunities; and

7 WHEREAS, Kaitlyn Maria of Belen, Valencia county rodeo
8 queen, was crowned the 2025 New Mexico state fair queen,
9 showcasing the talent and dedication of Valencia county
10 residents on a statewide stage; and

11 WHEREAS, Los Lunas and greater Valencia county continue to
12 be a center of economic growth in New Mexico, with an expanding
13 population, thriving industries and innovative development
14 projects contributing to New Mexico's competitiveness on a
15 national and global scale;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 6,
18 2025 be declared "Valencia County Day" in the house of
19 representatives; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the mayors of Belen, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms,
22 Peralta and Rio Communities and the chair of the board of
23 county commissioners of Valencia county.