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HOUSE MEMORIAL 55

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

SUPPORTING THE "1882 PROJECT" AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 26, 2013  
TO BE "INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT AND ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" AT THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, there are over thirty thousand Asians living in  
New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Asians are among the fastest-growing minorities  
in New Mexico; and

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

WHEREAS, the Chinese American citizens alliance, including  
its Albuquerque chapter, the Asian American association of New  
Mexico and the Japanese American citizens league thank the New

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1 Mexico legislature for its leadership in the 1882 project,  
2 seeking an apology from congress for passage of a series of  
3 laws, including the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which was not  
4 repealed until 1943; and

5 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201, passed by  
6 unanimous consent, including New Mexico senators Jeff Bingaman  
7 and Tom Udall, on October 6, 2011, acknowledged that the  
8 exclusion laws were incompatible with a basic founding  
9 principle of the United States, that all persons are created  
10 equal; and

11 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201 further  
12 expressed deep regret for six decades of legislation  
13 specifically targeting persons of Chinese descent, barring them  
14 from naturalization and immigration and denying them civil  
15 rights and equal protection under the law; and

16 WHEREAS, United States House of Representatives Resolution  
17 683, cosponsored by New Mexico representatives Martin Heinrich  
18 and Steve Pearce and supported by Representative Ben Ray Lujan,  
19 was placed on the suspension calendar and passed unanimously by  
20 the one hundred twelfth congress by voice vote on June 8, 2012;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico State Senator Cisco McSorley sponsored  
23 and led the repeal of the alien land law from the constitution  
24 of New Mexico during the second session of the forty-seventh  
25 legislature in 2006, which law prohibited land ownership by all

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1 immigrants ineligible for United States citizenship; and

2 WHEREAS, the repeal of these laws affirms the  
3 responsibility of congress and the New Mexico legislature to  
4 safeguard the civil rights and constitutional protections of  
5 all Americans, regardless of their race or ethnicity; and

6 WHEREAS, Asians are contributing their unique culture,  
7 customs and traditions to the already richly diverse culture of  
8 New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, during the first session of the forty-ninth  
10 legislature in 2009, State Senator Timothy M. Keller sponsored  
11 Senate Joint Memorial 24, which declared that the area in  
12 Albuquerque centered around Louisiana boulevard between Central  
13 and Zuni avenues, comprising the communities of La Mesa,  
14 Trumbull, South San Pedro, Elder Homestead, Fair West and  
15 surrounding areas, shall be collectively known as the  
16 "International District", which memorial passed the legislature  
17 without a dissenting vote; and

18 WHEREAS, in the "International District", Native Americans  
19 and New Mexicans, whose families have been in New Mexico for  
20 hundreds of years, live alongside recent immigrants from  
21 Mexico, Central and South America, Asia, Europe, Africa and  
22 other regions of the world; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States department of state's refugee  
24 resettlement program has contributed to many cultures, customs  
25 and faiths and is represented in this diverse and vibrant part

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1 of Albuquerque; and

2 WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven languages spoken at  
3 Highland high school and the "International District" is  
4 commonly recognized as the most internationally and culturally  
5 diverse area of New Mexico;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 26,  
8 2013 be declared "International District and Asian American  
9 Day" at the house of representatives.