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SENATE MEMORIAL 27

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Gregory A. Baca and Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING FEBRUARY 10, 2017 AS "VALENCIA COUNTY DAY" IN THE SENATE.

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

WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the largest matanza in the United States, and the matanza is a symbol of the rich Spanish heritage of the Rio Grande valley; and

WHEREAS, Valencia county is the home of the famous Tome land grant, which the king of Spain granted to thirty families in 1739; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas was founded by Spaniards in the seventeenth century; and

WHEREAS, Belen is officially known as "Nuestra Señora de Belen", or "Our Lady of Belen"; and

WHEREAS, Belen means "Bethlehem" in Spanish; and

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1           WHEREAS, Belen was a strategic point along the Camino  
2 Real, also known as the "Royal Road", which carved a trade  
3 route south into Mexico; and

4           WHEREAS, Belen has gained the nickname "hub city" because  
5 of the Belen cutoff of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe  
6 railway, now known as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Bosque Farms was a destination for relocated dust  
9 bowl refugees; and

10          WHEREAS, Bosque Farms strives to be a sparsely populated,  
11 agricultural community; and

12          WHEREAS, Peralta was the site of a minor engagement during  
13 the American civil war; and

14          WHEREAS, Rio Communities is home to Valencia county's only  
15 golf course, Tierra del Sol; and

16          WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to decalogue stone, which  
17 contains an inscription that is interpreted to be an abridged  
18 version of the ten commandments in a form of the Paleo-Hebrew  
19 alphabet; and

20          WHEREAS, Valencia county houses two museums, the Belen  
21 Harvey house museum and the Los Lunas museum of heritage and  
22 arts; and

23          WHEREAS, Valencia county is home to parts of the Cibola  
24 national forest and the Manzano wilderness; and

25          WHEREAS, Valencia county is renowned for its agriculture;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, Valencia county hosts the United States' largest  
3 matanza, a family fun event that raises funds to provide  
4 scholarships to students while preserving Valencia county  
5 traditions by promoting and enhancing local business  
6 development through civic, social, cultural and employment  
7 training programs;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
9 OF NEW MEXICO that February 10, 2017 be commemorated as  
10 "Valencia County Day" in the senate; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the mayors of Belen, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms,  
13 Peralta and Rio Communities.

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