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SENATE MEMORIAL 87

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

INTRODUCED BY

Craig W. Brandt

A MEMORIAL

AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE NEW MEXICO STATE SENATE TO  
CONSTITUTIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW.

WHEREAS, the declaration of independence states that all  
human beings are "endowed by their Creator with certain  
unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the  
pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, the United States constitution is the sole  
authoritative basis of all laws in the United States and is the  
legal guarantor of all natural, God-given rights in the United  
States of America; and

WHEREAS, the fourteenth amendment of the United States  
constitution states, "No State shall make or enforce any law  
which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of  
the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of

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1 life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor  
2 deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection  
3 of the laws."; and

4 WHEREAS, in the history of the United States, the  
5 constitutional guarantees of equality have often been  
6 egregiously abridged or denied to citizens on the basis of  
7 ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion or other  
8 personal or cultural characteristics; and

9 WHEREAS, extraordinary citizens in the history of the  
10 United States have fought valiantly to restore constitutional  
11 equality to whom it has been denied, including:

12 A. President Abraham Lincoln, whose emancipation  
13 proclamation and successful prosecution of the civil war  
14 resulted in the abolishment of slavery in America;

15 B. Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave and  
16 abolitionist leader whose personal brilliance and character  
17 were highly influential in the struggle for equality and the  
18 advancement of African Americans;

19 C. Harriet Tubman, leader of the underground  
20 railroad, who helped rescue countless thousands of slaves and  
21 is one of American history's most heroic figures;

22 D. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two  
23 of America's most forceful advocates for women's rights and  
24 whose tireless work resulted in the nineteenth amendment  
25 granting women the right to vote;

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1           E. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who, in 1957,  
2 sent federal troops to enforce anti-segregation laws in  
3 Arkansas; and

4           F. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose extraordinary  
5 spiritual depth, intelligence and leadership was a beacon of  
6 light, not only for African Americans, but for all people of  
7 conscience; and

8           WHEREAS, these individuals, among many others, both famous  
9 and anonymous, through their commitment and work to achieve  
10 equality for all Americans, exemplify the moral and civic  
11 virtue that the country's founders envisioned for America's  
12 posterity; and

13           WHEREAS, this same moral and civic virtue is exemplified  
14 by those in America's armed forces, who throughout the  
15 country's history have given and are giving life and limb to  
16 protect and defend the principles of freedom and equal rights;

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
18 OF NEW MEXICO that proud American citizens are heirs to the  
19 sacred legacy entrusted by the nation's founders; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate of the state of New  
21 Mexico has a moral obligation to preserve, protect and defend  
22 the United States constitution, with its promise of equal  
23 protection under the law; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate of the state of New  
25 Mexico stands against discrimination of any kind against anyone

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1 on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation,  
2 religious belief, political ideology or any other  
3 characteristic; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the governor.

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