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HOUSE MEMORIAL 4

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN
WASHINGTON, D.C., TO ADVOCATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE
NATIONAL "NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY" AS A LEGAL PUBLIC
HOLIDAY.

WHEREAS, Native Americans were the original inhabitants of
the land that is now the United States; and

WHEREAS, historically and today, the experience of many of
those original inhabitants and their descendants is
characterized by devastation and misfortune; and

WHEREAS, the Native American legacy and Native American
contemporary life are reflected by attributes and achievements
that have enriched this country's cultural, artistic, economic,
social, religious and political landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans' historic and contemporary

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1 experiences and their substantial enrichment of this country
2 deserve attention; and

3 WHEREAS, many states have honored Native American heritage
4 by designating a day to honor Native Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2009, the United States government established
6 the fourth Friday of every year as national "Native American
7 Heritage Day"; and

8 WHEREAS, the designation of "Native American Heritage Day"
9 as a legal public holiday would provide more opportunity for
10 programs and events that educate all Americans about the United
11 States' indigenous cultures, correct misunderstandings about
12 Native Americans perpetuated by media and underscore the
13 importance of respect for all people; and

14 WHEREAS, the federal declaration of "Native American
15 Heritage Day" as a legal public holiday would prompt states to
16 take similar measures to observe the holiday, thereby
17 encouraging widespread commemoration of Native American history
18 and celebration of Native American contributions to the United
19 States;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of
22 the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to
23 advocate in congress for making "Native American Heritage Day"
24 a legal public holiday; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
2 delegation.

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