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HOUSE MEMORIAL 82

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

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AREA IN THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE CENTERED AROUND LOUISIANA BETWEEN CENTRAL AND ZUNI, COMPRISING THE COMMUNITIES OF LA MESA, TRUMBULL, SOUTH SAN PEDRO, ELDER HOMESTEAD, FAIR WEST AND SURROUNDING AREAS, KNOWN AS THE "INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT".

WHEREAS, the area in the city of Albuquerque centered around Louisiana between Central and Zuni is commonly recognized as the most international and culturally diverse area of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the residents living in that community come from various countries of origin and have diverse ethnic, racial and national backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in the international district, Native Americans and New Mexicans whose families have been in New Mexico for

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1 hundreds of years live alongside recent immigrants from Mexico,  
2 Central and South America, Asia, Europe, Africa and many other  
3 places; and

4 WHEREAS, many cultures, customs and faiths are represented  
5 in this diverse and vibrant part of the city, and over twenty-  
6 seven languages are spoken at Highland high school; and

7 WHEREAS, the area has been home for the last five decades  
8 to the United States department of state's refugee resettlement  
9 program; and

10 WHEREAS, hundreds of residents, business operators and  
11 local elected officials held several public meetings, had  
12 thoughtful discourse and unanimously concluded that creating  
13 awareness of and leveraging the area's positive image are  
14 critical to building the community and supporting local  
15 business and property; and

16 WHEREAS, since its formal recognition in 2009, the  
17 international district identity has started to flourish through  
18 economic development and by creating awareness of the  
19 community's vibrant and diverse culture, goods and services;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the international district is supported by local,  
22 county and city elected officials in the community and has  
23 supported identity-building through signage and long-range  
24 planning; and

25 WHEREAS, recent improvements in the area include the

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1 expansion of Turquoise lodge and the metropolitan assessment  
2 and treatment services facility, the Ed Romero terrace,  
3 refurbishment of the Sundowner hotel and Luna lodge, the  
4 Albuquerque housing partnership's affordable single family  
5 housing, the extreme makeover home edition property, cultural  
6 artwork around Talin market, the new university of New Mexico  
7 southeast heights healthcare clinic, the new peanut butter and  
8 jelly family services, incorporated, southeast heights center,  
9 New Mexico veterans integration center, east central ministries  
10 dental clinic, the new Molina medical clinic, expanded first  
11 nations health clinic, improved sidewalks and drainage, the  
12 stories of route 66 project and other projects that have helped  
13 bring new vitality and needed services to the area; and

14 WHEREAS, the international district, with support of local  
15 stakeholders and elected officials, hosts popular city and  
16 statewide events, including the international district festival  
17 and international district day at the New Mexico legislature;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the fifth  
20 anniversary of the international district, including the area  
21 in the city of Albuquerque centered around Louisiana between  
22 Central and Zuni, comprising the communities of La Mesa,  
23 Trumbull, South San Pedro, Elder Homestead, Fair West and  
24 surrounding areas, shall be collectively recognized as the  
25 "International District"; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to members of the media in Albuquerque and Santa Fe and to city and county officials representing the area.