The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

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CHAPTER

SENATE MEMORIAL 58

Introduced by

SENATOR LYNDA M. LOVEJOY
SENATOR MARY JANE M. GARCIA
SENATOR GEORGE K. MUÑOZ
SENATOR NANCY RODRIGUEZ
SENATOR MICHAEL S. SANCHEZ
A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PUEBLO OF ZIA TO THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE USE OF ITS SACRED AND RELIGIOUS
TRIBAL SYMBOL KNOWN AS THE "ZIA SUN SYMBOL" ON THE FLAG OF
NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in the early 1920s, the local chapter of the
daughters of the American revolution, backed by several
women's clubs, decided that the state of New Mexico needed a
flag that was more representative of New Mexico's unique
charity and initiated a design contest; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry Mera won the contest with a flag that
incorporated colors and patterns from both Indian and Spanish
traditions; and

WHEREAS, to symbolize New Mexico's tradition of cultural
diversity, Dr. Mera adapted the sacred sun symbol from a
Pueblo of Zia vase and adorned it with the red and gold
colors of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico, through its
legislative process, formally adopted the flag with the
sacred Zia sun symbol in 1925, and it has continuously flown
over the state since that time, displaying a symbol of
"perfect friendship among united cultures"; and

WHEREAS, all accounts of the flag explicitly acknowledge
the origin of the design as an ancient symbol of the Zia
people; and

WHEREAS, the Zia sun symbol has been continuously
commercialized and utilized over the years by private
interests that have recognized its commercial value and
adopted it for their own benefit; and

WHEREAS, harmony among New Mexico's cultures and the
mutual respect toward traditions and sacred symbols need to
be strengthened in order to close the circle of unity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge the Zia sun symbol as
an "ancient and sacred symbol of the Zia people"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate express its
appreciation to the Pueblo of Zia as the state celebrates the
one hundredth anniversary of statehood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state work in
collaboration with the Pueblo of Zia to develop alternative
ways of establishing reconciliation, mutual understanding and
collaboration with respect to the use of the sacred Zia sun
symbol; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the governor of the Pueblo of Zia and the
governor of New Mexico.