

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 53

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES ROGER MADALENA AND REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA D. JEFF

REPRESENTATIVE DEBBIE A. RODELLA
REPRESENTATIVE ELISEO LEE ALCON
REPRESENTATIVE NICK L. SALAZAR
REPRESENTATIVE RAY BEGAYE
REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD D. VIGIL
REPRESENTATIVE W. KEN MARTINEZ
REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA A. LUNDSTROM



1 A MEMORIAL

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

6
7 WHEREAS, in the early 1920s, the local chapter of the
8 daughters of the American revolution, backed by several
9 women's clubs, decided that the state of New Mexico needed a
10 flag that was more representative of New Mexico's unique
11 character and initiated a design contest; and

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, all accounts of the flag explicitly acknowledge
25 the origin of the design as an ancient symbol of the Zia

1 people; and

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

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

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

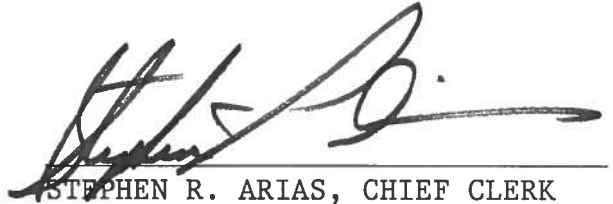
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
14 express its appreciation to the Pueblo of Zia as the state
15 celebrates the one hundredth anniversary of statehood; and

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

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



BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES