



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE MEMORIAL 58

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Introduced by

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



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  
5 NEW 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  
18 colors 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  
21 sacred Zia sun symbol in 1925, and it has continuously flown  
22 over the state since that time, displaying a symbol of  
23 "perfect 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

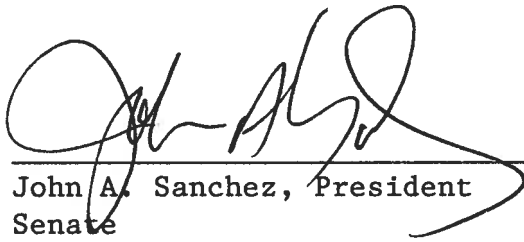
6 WHEREAS, harmony among New Mexico's cultures and the  
7 mutual respect toward traditions and sacred symbols need to  
8 be strengthened in order to close the circle of unity;

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

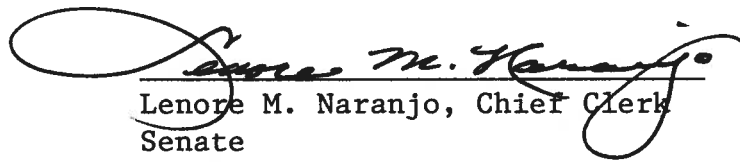
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate express its  
13 appreciation to the Pueblo of Zia as the state celebrates the  
14 one hundredth anniversary of statehood; and

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

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



John A. Sanchez, President  
Senate



Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk  
Senate