



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

53rd Legislature, 2nd Session

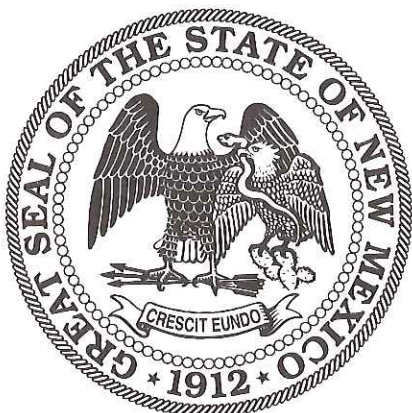
LAWS 2018

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 92, as amended

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE ELISEO L. ALCON
REPRESENTATIVE DOREEN W. JOHNSON
REPRESENTATIVE HARRY GARCIA
REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA A. LUNDSTROM



1 A MEMORIAL

2 SUPPORTING A TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY FROM THE FEDERAL
3 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR THE
4 CREATION OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT DEVOTED TO FORT WINGATE, ITS
5 HISTORY AND ITS LONG-REACHING IMPACT.

6
7 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate has played a central role in the
8 history of the southwest United States and its people,
9 particularly in the areas of military, education and economic
10 development; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1872 at Fort Wingate, Chief Manuelito,
12 Thomas V. Kearns and General Otis Howard established the
13 Navajo cavalry, composed of one hundred volunteers, thereby
14 becoming the first Indian police force; and

15 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate served as the headquarters for
16 Navajo Indian scouts from 1873 to 1890; and

17 WHEREAS, of the many Navajos who served in the United
18 States military in the 1880s and 1890s, two women, Mexicana
19 Chiquita and Muchucha, became the first women to serve in
20 combat roles in the United States army; and

21 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate became a center for education and
22 research activities in the late nineteenth century; and

23 WHEREAS, innovators in the fields of anthropology,
24 archaeology, geology and botany used Fort Wingate as their
25 headquarters; and

1 WHEREAS, at Fort Wingate vocational high school, in May
2 1942, the first Navajo code talkers were recruited and sworn
3 into the United States marine corps; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1926, the Charles H. Burke vocational school
5 was established and, after numerous name changes and
6 relocations, became Wingate high school in 1965, with its
7 original location becoming Wingate elementary school; and

8 WHEREAS, the education provided to Navajo students of
9 Wingate high school and Wingate elementary school became the
10 foundation for gainful employment for many Navajo people; and

11 WHEREAS, the vocational programs at the high school
12 provided training in skills related to traditional Navajo
13 life; and

14 WHEREAS, Fort Wingate provided employment to many Navajo
15 people, from workers who constructed the fort in the 1800s to
16 those who worked and currently work at the schools and
17 offices; and

18 WHEREAS, the approximately four hundred ninety-five
19 acres of real property proposed to be considered for the old
20 Fort Wingate national monument is under the exclusive
21 jurisdiction of the United States department of the
22 interior's bureau of Indian affairs; and

23 WHEREAS, with the planned demolition of several
24 buildings on the site, and with it the destruction of
25 tangible Navajo historical artifacts, a transfer in the near

1 future is of critical importance;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New
4 Mexico congressional delegation be requested to support all
5 efforts to transfer the real property consisting of the four-
6 hundred-ninety-five-acre schools site from the federal bureau
7 of Indian affairs to the national park service for the
8 creation of a national monument devoted to Fort Wingate, its
9 history and its long-reaching impact; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
12 delegation, the bureau of Indian affairs, the secretary of the
13 interior, the national park service, the McKinley county board
14 of commissioners, the speaker of the twenty-third Navajo
15 Nation council and the president of the Navajo Nation. _____

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Brian Egolf, Speaker
House of Representatives



Lisa M. Ortiz McCutcheon, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives