

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING JANUARY 17, 2019 "ASIAN AMERICAN DAY" IN THE  
3 SENATE.

4  
5 WHEREAS, there are more than forty-two thousand Asian  
6 Americans living in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are among the fastest-growing  
8 and emerging communities of color in New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian Americans in New Mexico come from  
10 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India,  
11 Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,  
12 Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet and  
13 Vietnam, as well as other locations; and

14 WHEREAS, Asian Americans have worked on the railroads  
15 and in agriculture in New Mexico since the nineteenth century  
16 and fought bravely in World War I, World War II, the Korean  
17 and Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War and in Afghanistan and  
18 Iraq and have received congressional medals of honor, purple  
19 hearts and other military commendations; and

20 WHEREAS, this year represents the fifty-fourth  
21 anniversary of the passage of the federal Immigration and  
22 Nationality Act of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon  
23 B. Johnson at the foot of the statue of liberty on  
24 October 3, 1965; and

25 WHEREAS, the Chinese American citizens alliance,

1 including its Albuquerque chapter, the Asian American  
2 association of New Mexico and the Japanese American citizens  
3 league thank the New Mexico legislature for its leadership in  
4 the 1882 project, seeking an apology from congress for  
5 passage of a series of laws, including the 1882 Chinese  
6 Exclusion Act, which was not repealed until 1943; and

7 WHEREAS, prior to passage of the federal Immigration and  
8 Nationality Act of 1965, Asians were greatly affected by the  
9 Chinese Exclusion Act, which restricted immigration of  
10 Chinese laborers and forbade the naturalization of Chinese  
11 immigrants; and

12 WHEREAS, Asians also were affected by the federal  
13 Immigration Act of 1917, which designated an "Asiatic barred  
14 zone" of much of eastern Asia and the Pacific islands from  
15 which people could not immigrate to the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of  
17 1965 enabled Asian family reunification, civil rights and  
18 equal protection under the law that had been denied for over  
19 sixty years; and

20 WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201, passed by  
21 unanimous consent, including New Mexico Senators Jeff  
22 Bingaman and Tom Udall, on October 6, 2011, acknowledged that  
23 the exclusion laws were incompatible with a basic founding  
24 principle of the United States: that all persons are created  
25 equal; and

1           WHEREAS, United States Senate Resolution 201 further  
2 expressed deep regret for six decades of legislation  
3 specifically targeting persons of Asian descent, barring them  
4 from naturalization and immigration and denying them civil  
5 rights and equal protection under the law; and

6           WHEREAS, United States House of Representatives  
7 Resolution 683, expressing the regret of the house of  
8 representatives for the passage of laws that adversely  
9 affected the Chinese in the United States, including the  
10 Chinese Exclusion Act, was supported by Congressmen  
11 Martin T. Heinrich, Steve Pearce and Ben R. Lujan; the  
12 resolution was placed on the suspension calendar and passed  
13 unanimously by the one hundred twelfth congress by voice vote  
14 on June 8, 2012; and

15           WHEREAS, New Mexico Senator Cisco McSorley sponsored and  
16 led the repeal of the Alien Land Law from the constitution of  
17 New Mexico during the first session of the forty-seventh  
18 legislature in 2005, which law prohibited land ownership by  
19 all immigrants ineligible for United States citizenship; and

20           WHEREAS, the repeal of these laws affirms the  
21 responsibility of congress and the New Mexico legislature to  
22 safeguard the civil rights and constitutional protections of  
23 all Americans, regardless of their race or ethnicity; and

24           WHEREAS, Asian Americans contribute greatly to the  
25 economy of New Mexico with their labor, industry, businesses

1 and purchasing power; and

2 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are contributing their unique  
3 culture, customs and traditions to the already richly diverse  
4 culture of New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, Asians are a strong part of the narrative and  
6 historical context of New Mexico and deserve to have their  
7 humanity in all its shapes and forms be recognized;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 17, 2019 be declared  
10 "Asian American Day" in the senate; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the Asian American association of New Mexico  
13 and the New Mexico Asian family center. \_\_\_\_\_

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