



VALENCIA COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2023-73

NOMINATING DONALD CHAVEZ TO THE HALL OF FAME OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO AND THE HALL OF FAME OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County, met upon notice of a duly published Business meeting September 20, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in the Valencia County Administration Building, 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 3-18-1 (1972) and NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1995) provide that Counties have the power to, "provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants"; and,

WHEREAS, Congress enacted legislation in 2020 to establish an American Latino Museum in Washington, DC; and,

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian is building the National Museum of the American Latino to recognize the accomplishments, history, and culture of the Latino communities; and,

WHEREAS, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, located in the historic Barelvas community in Albuquerque New Mexico, is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and advancement of Hispanic culture, arts and humanities; and,

WHEREAS, in September the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Donald Chavez a Native New Mexican, a career social worker in New Mexico and fourteenth generation sheep rancher, ascended notoriety in the 1980s when following his divorce, he was denied joint custody of his two daughters, due to the Tender Years Doctrine which favored mothers; and,

WHEREAS, over the course of 35 trial proceedings and four trips to the New Mexico Supreme Court, Chavez was finally awarded joint custody. However, in order to do so, he organized community based Dads Against Discrimination, D.A.D. convening thousands of parents of divorce, eventually pushing the New Mexico State Legislature to establish a "presumption of joint custody," in child custody matters in May 1986; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez was appointed to the New Mexico Commission on Child Custody and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez was appointed to the New Mexico Commission on Child Custody and Support by Governor Anaya where he was able to further protect children's access to both parents. In 1990 he was appointed to the US Interstate Child Support Commission by President H. Bush to represent fathers nationwide. In the same year he was elected as president of the National Congress for Men, in Washington DC; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Congress awarded Chavez with a Congressional Commendation for his work on preserving the nuclear family in 1987; and,

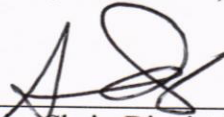
WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez is also a historian and champion of Latino history. For years, he had a history column in his local newspaper, has been a cowboy history contributor on the History Channel and maintains an on-line book on the true history of cowboys. In 1980 he successfully rescued the (DNA traced) lost sheep of 1540 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado y Lujan's almost defunct, New Mexico Dahl Heritage sheep from extinction.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

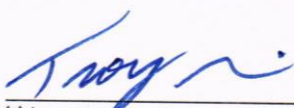
The Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County hereby nominates Donald Chavez to the National Museum of the American Latino Hall of Fame and the National Hispanic Cultural Center Hall of Fame.

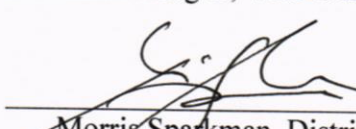
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 20th day of September 2023.


Gerard Saiz, Chair, District I

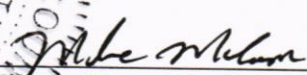

Jhonathan Aragon, Vice-Chair, District V


Troy Richardson, District II


Morris Sparkman, District III


Joseph Bizzell, District IV

Attest:


Mike Milam, County Clerk

