



For Immediate Release
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Governor Richardson Celebrates New Mexico Quarter Launch *Governor also proclaims New Mexico Quarter Day*

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today celebrated the launch of the official New Mexico quarter. The Governor was joined by Director of the United States Mint Ed C. Moy for the ceremonial launch at the State Capitol.

"Today is an historic day for New Mexico, I am honored to launch our state quarter into circulation," said Governor Richardson. "The New Mexico quarter showcases several of the unique features that help define our beautiful state, including the top two choices of the public- the world-famous Zia symbol and our beautiful landscape."

The New Mexico quarter went into circulation today, April 7, 2008. The State Capitol was the first place in the Nation where citizens could be sure of obtaining the new quarter. Representatives from First National Bank were on hand at the Capitol for the public to acquire the new quarter and children under 18 received a complimentary one, courtesy of the United States Mint.

The New Mexico quarter is the 47th coin of the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. New Mexico was the 47th state to be accepted into the Union in 1912. The coin bears the image of a Zia sun symbol over a topographical outline of the State with the inscription "Land of Enchantment." The people of New Mexico sent in over a 1000 concept submissions and the final design was chosen in April 2007.

The New Mexico Coin Commission, working in collaboration with the U.S. Mint, is responsible for the creation of the state quarter. The Commission was created during the 2005 Legislative session. Governor Richardson appointed seven members to the Commission. For more information go to: www.governor.state.nm.us/quarter2.php

The Governor has proclaimed April 7, 2008 as New Mexico Quarter Day. Full text of the proclamation follows:

WHEREAS, launched in 1999, the United States Mint 50 State Quarters ♦ Program is a 10-year coin initiative commemorating each of the nation's states in the order that they were admitted into the Union, and approximately every ten weeks through 2008, a new, limited-edition quarter, which displays an individual state's design, is released into general circulation; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico coin Commission, composed of seven residents from across New Mexico representing a variety of backgrounds and expertise, was established during the 2005 legislature in order to select the final design for New Mexico's quarter; and

WHEREAS, citizens from all over New Mexico submitted more than 1,000 designs to the committee for consideration, and after careful review of the public submissions, the Commission selected four narrative concepts that represented the most popular elements submitted by the public, one of which was the Zia Symbol, representing New Mexico's rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2007, the Commission presented the final recommendation to New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson for approval and the final design was forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury for final authorization; and

WHEREAS, as the 47th state to enter the Union, on January 6, 1912, New Mexico is the 47th quarter introduced as part of the United States Mint 50 State Quarters ♦ Program; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2008, a ceremony will be held in New Mexico to launch New Mexico's quarter into circulation;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2008 as:

“New Mexico Quarter Day”

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest:

Done at the Executive Office this
19th day of March, 2008.

Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor

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