



## *A Proclamation by the Governor*

**WHEREAS**, many Basques immigrated to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s in search of opportunity during the gold rush of Nevada and California, and to pursue the American promises of liberty and economic opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Basque immigrant community developed a reputation for possessing a profound work ethic and a propensity for success in business and agricultural endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Basque population in Nevada was critical to the exponential growth of the sheep industry in this state, taking jobs in sheep camps and cultivating a proud tradition of storytelling; and

**WHEREAS**, Nevada's Basque community continues to celebrate a proud heritage, notably through traditional dances and colorful costumes, Basque music, and ethnic cuisine that remains widely popular across the state to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, many notable Nevadans who have made invaluable contributions to our state are descendants of Basque immigrants, including former Nevada Governor and U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt, and many others who have served as community and business leaders throughout our history; and

**WHEREAS**, the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies of the University of Nevada, Reno remains committed to preserving Basque history and heritage in our state for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning June 29, 2016, the Smithsonian Institution will highlight the special and unique aspects of Basque heritage and culture during the 2016 National Folk Life Festival, showcasing the history of the Basque community and celebrating their many contributions to our nation, while also emphasizing the innovative economic development of the modern Basque Country; and

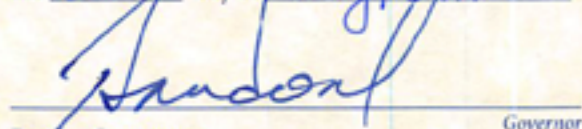
**WHEREAS**, the State of Nevada proudly celebrates the role that the Basque community has played in shaping the growth and success of the Silver State, with recognition of the remarkable place Basque culture, history, and heritage continues to occupy in the Nevada character;

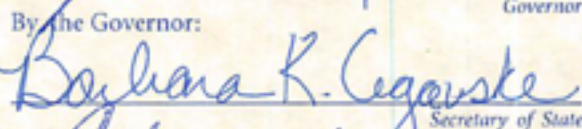
**NOW THEREFORE, I BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,** do hereby proclaim June 29, 2016 as a day in honor of

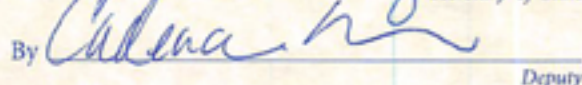
### **BASQUE HERITAGE AND CULTURE IN NEVADA**



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy