

## New Mexico to Restore Status of Pluto as a Planet

Posted by [Guy Pirro](#) on 3/10/2007 6:14 PM



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48th legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - first session, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING PLUTO A PLANET AND DECLARING MARCH 13, 2007, "PLUTO PLANET DAY" AT THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is a global center for astronomy, astrophysics and planetary science; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to world class astronomical observing facilities, such as the Apache Point observatory, the very large array, the Magdalena Ridge observatory and the national solar observatory; and

WHEREAS, Apache Point observatory, operated by New Mexico state university, houses the astrophysical research consortium's three-and-one-half meter telescope, as well as the unique two-and-one-half meter diameter Sloan digital sky survey telescope; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico state university has the state's only independent, doctorate-granting astronomy department; and

**Pluto and its moon Charon. For many years, Pluto was thought of as the farthest known planet from the Sun. It has a very unusual orbit. Once every 248 Earth years, Pluto swings inside the orbit of Neptune. It stays there for twenty years. Pluto has three moons. Pluto's largest moon, Charon, is half the size of Pluto. In 2005, astronomers observed two more moons of Pluto. The moons were named Nix and Hydra. (Image Credit: NASA)**

WHEREAS, New Mexico state university and Dona Ana county were the longtime home of Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of Pluto; and

WHEREAS, Pluto has been recognized as a planet for seventy-five years; and

WHEREAS, Pluto's average orbit is three billion six hundred ninety-five million nine hundred fifty thousand miles from the sun, and its diameter is approximately one thousand four hundred twenty-one miles; and

WHEREAS, Pluto has three moons known as Charon, Nix and Hydra; and

WHEREAS, a spacecraft called new horizons was launched in January 2006 to explore Pluto in the year 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, as Pluto passes overhead through New Mexico's excellent night skies, it be declared a planet and that March 13, 2007 be declared "Pluto Planet Day" at the legislature.

For more information:

[http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,72927-0.html?tw=wn\\_technology\\_3](http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,72927-0.html?tw=wn_technology_3)

[http://www.astromart.com/news/news.asp?news\\_id=568](http://www.astromart.com/news/news.asp?news_id=568)

[http://www.astromart.com/news/news.asp?news\\_id=560](http://www.astromart.com/news/news.asp?news_id=560)

<http://legis.state.nm.us/Sessions/07%20Regular/memorials/house/HJM054.html>