

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 26, 2015 "LAS VEGAS DAY" IN THE SENATE;
3 RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF LAS VEGAS AND
4 EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS IN SEEKING
5 FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS AT THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS
6 ABE MONTOYA RECREATION CENTER.

7
8 WHEREAS, Las Vegas was founded in 1835 as a Spanish land
9 grant called Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Las Vegas
10 Grandes; and

11 WHEREAS, the Spanish settlers who founded the community
12 had roots going back to the seventeenth century; and

13 WHEREAS, the acequia madre in Las Vegas stands as a
14 testament to one hundred fifty years of resourcefulness and
15 ingenuity; and

16 WHEREAS, Las Vegas was a key rest stop, resupply point
17 and protector of the Santa Fe trail, serving as a lifeline
18 between the growing West and the eastern parts of the
19 United States; and

20 WHEREAS, in one of the more riotous and colorful
21 periods of its history, Vicente Silva and Las Gorras Blancas,
22 Doc Holliday, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp and Jesse James
23 mingled with Las Vegas inhabitants and enjoyed its
24 entertainments; and

25 WHEREAS, Las Vegas provided some of Teddy Roosevelt's

1 "Rough Riders", and the city hosted the first "Rough Riders"
2 reunion, which was attended by Roosevelt shortly before he
3 became president; and

4 WHEREAS, Las Vegas has more than nine hundred buildings
5 on the national register of historic places; and

6 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is a signature place of charm and
7 wonder in the "Land of Enchantment", a spectacular tourist
8 destination, with fine historic hotels, authentic New Mexico
9 character and easy access to other local historic sites and
10 outdoor recreation; and

11 WHEREAS, aside from its historic and tourist
12 attractions, Las Vegas is home to many critical state
13 institutions; and

14 WHEREAS, one of these is the New Mexico behavioral
15 health institute, the only state-owned and state-operated
16 psychiatric hospital, which provides critical medical
17 services to the state, including long-term nursing care for
18 the elderly and disabled; and

19 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is also home to five major
20 educational institutions: New Mexico highlands university,
21 Luna community college, United world college, Las Vegas city
22 schools and west Las Vegas public school district; and

23 WHEREAS, these educational institutions are crucibles
24 of learning, teaching and discovery, not just for northern
25 New Mexico, but for the entire state and the globe; and

1 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas Abe Montoya recreation
2 center is another gem of the city, dedicated to providing a
3 variety of quality fitness and recreational services for all
4 ages in a facility that promotes pride in community ownership
5 and exceptional customer service; and

6 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas Abe Montoya recreation
7 center provides a safe zone for children and teens, offers
8 a positive recreation experience and offers the chance for
9 families to enjoy fitness, special activities and events
10 close to home; and

11 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas Abe Montoya recreation
12 center serves the communities of Las Vegas, Springer,
13 Wagon Mound, Pecos, Villanueva and Mora; and

14 WHEREAS, services offered at the recreation center are
15 vital components in the reduction of risks of diabetes, high
16 blood pressure and a variety of other health issues; and

17 WHEREAS, in recent years, the city of Las Vegas
18 Abe Montoya recreation center has experienced extreme damage
19 to the structural integrity of the building, resulting in
20 serious health and safety concerns; and

21 WHEREAS, over sixty-five thousand four hundred people
22 were served annually at the recreation center prior to the
23 facility experiencing structural damage; and

24 WHEREAS, about thirty-nine thousand six hundred people
25 are being served at the recreation center under current

1 conditions, leaving about twenty-five thousand eight hundred
2 people who are not being served; and

3 WHEREAS, the Las Vegas community has already invested
4 millions of dollars to build the recreation center, and it is
5 important to preserve that investment;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the distinguished history and
8 heritage of Las Vegas be recognized and that
9 February 26, 2015 be declared "Las Vegas Day" in the senate;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support be expressed for
12 efforts to seek funding for emergency repairs to the city of
13 Las Vegas Abe Montoya recreation center; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the mayor of Las Vegas and to members of the
16 city council of Las Vegas. _____

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25