

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING MARCH 6, 2013 "WE THE PEOPLE DAY" IN THE SENATE
3 OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

4
5 WHEREAS, the center for civic education is a nonprofit,
6 nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an
7 enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic
8 principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy
9 in the United States and other countries; and

10 WHEREAS, the center specializes in civics and
11 citizenship education, law-related education and
12 international educational exchange programs for developing
13 democracies; and

14 WHEREAS, the center administers the "We the People: The
15 Citizen and the Constitution" instructional program that
16 complements the regular social studies and language arts
17 curricula in upper elementary, middle and high schools; and

18 WHEREAS, the We the People program is funded by the
19 United States department of education under the federal
20 Education for Democracy Act; and

21 WHEREAS, the We the People program, through critical
22 thinking exercises, problem-solving activities and
23 cooperative learning techniques, enhances students'
24 understanding of the institutions of American constitutional
25 democracy while students discover the contemporary relevance

1 of the United States constitution and bill of rights; and

2 WHEREAS, the program's culminating activity is a
3 simulated congressional hearing in which students testify
4 before a panel of judges and students demonstrate their
5 knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and
6 have opportunities to evaluate, take and defend positions on
7 relevant historical and contemporary issues; and

8 WHEREAS, simulated congressional hearings are held on
9 both a competitive and noncompetitive basis in participating
10 schools, with high school competition occurring first at the
11 congressional district level, then statewide and state
12 champions competing in the We the People finals in
13 Washington, D.C.; and

14 WHEREAS, since the inception of the We the People
15 program in 1987, more than twenty-eight million students and
16 ninety thousand educators have participated in this
17 innovative course of study, and approximately one thousand
18 two hundred high school students and their teachers
19 participate annually in the We the People national finals;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, over the years, New Mexico teams have been
22 among the top ten finalists at the We the People national
23 finals several times, placing fourth on one occasion, and
24 this year, Moriarty high school represents New Mexico at the
25 twenty-sixth annual We the People national finals to be held

1 on April 26-29; and

2 WHEREAS, We the People companion programs actively
3 engage students in the study of public policymaking and the
4 prevention of bullying and violence in school; and

5 WHEREAS, the educational testing service and independent
6 researchers have found that the We the People program is a
7 "great educational success", whose students "significantly
8 outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests
9 taken", developed greater commitment to democratic principles
10 and values than students in comparison groups and became
11 energized about their place as citizens of the United States;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 6, 2013 be declared "We the
14 People Day" in the senate; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
17 delegation, the secretary of public education, the We the
18 People team at Moriarty high school and the New Mexico center
19 for democracy and civic education.

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