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HOUSE MEMORIAL 42

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Tomás E. Salazar

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Las Vegas was a key rest stop, resupply point and

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1 protector of the Santa Fe trail, serving as a lifeline between
2 the growing West and the eastern parts of the United States;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in one of the more riotous and colorful periods
5 of its history, Vicente Silva and Las Gorras Blancas, Doc
6 Holliday, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp and Jesse James mingled
7 with Las Vegas inhabitants and enjoyed its entertainments; and

8 WHEREAS, Las Vegas provided some of Teddy Roosevelt's
9 "Rough Riders", and the city hosted the first "Rough Riders"
10 reunion, which was attended by Roosevelt shortly before he
11 became president; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is a signature place of charm and
15 wonder in the "Land of Enchantment", a spectacular tourist
16 destination, with fine historic hotels, authentic New Mexico
17 character and easy access to other local historic sites and
18 outdoor recreation; and

19 WHEREAS, aside from its historic and tourist attractions,
20 Las Vegas is home to many critical state institutions; and

21 WHEREAS, one of these is the New Mexico behavioral health
22 institute, the only state-owned and state-operated psychiatric
23 hospital, which provides critical medical services to the
24 state, including long-term nursing care for the elderly and
25 disabled; and

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1 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is also home to five major educational
2 institutions: New Mexico highlands university, Luna community
3 college, United world college, Las Vegas city schools and west
4 Las Vegas public school district; and

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

8 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas Abe Montoya recreation
9 center is another gem of the city, dedicated to providing a
10 variety of quality fitness and recreational services for all
11 ages in a facility that promotes pride in community ownership
12 and exceptional customer service; and

13 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas Abe Montoya recreation
14 center provides a safe zone for children and teens, offers a
15 positive recreation experience and offers the chance for
16 families to enjoy fitness, special activities and events close
17 to home; and

18 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas Abe Montoya recreation
19 center serves the communities of Las Vegas, Springer, Wagon
20 Mound, Pecos, Villanueva and Mora; and

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

24 WHEREAS, in recent years, the city of Las Vegas Abe
25 Montoya recreation center has experienced extreme damage to the

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1 structural integrity of the building, resulting in serious
2 health and safety concerns; and

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

6 WHEREAS, about thirty-nine thousand six hundred people are
7 being served at the recreation center under current conditions,
8 leaving about twenty-five thousand eight hundred people who are
9 not being served; and

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

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
15 distinguished history and heritage of Las Vegas be recognized
16 and that February 26, 2015 be declared "Las Vegas Day" in the
17 house of representatives; and

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the mayor of Las Vegas and to members of the
23 city council of Las Vegas.