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SENATE MEMORIAL 62

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 10, 2017 "CHESS SERVICE DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, countless studies show that learning the game of chess serves to improve student outcomes in math and reading scores, overall cognitive ability and executive functioning skills; and

WHEREAS, learners chess academy, a New Mexico nonprofit organization founded in 2010, has developed after-school chess clubs in more than fifty schools over the last six years and has taught thousands of children how to play chess in the after-school programs and summer camps; and

WHEREAS, learners chess academy has initiated a new program called learners without borders with the objective to send youth ambassadors to a foreign country to teach chess to children in communities without sufficient resources; and

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1           WHEREAS, in the summer of 2016, the first learners without  
2 borders program sent two Albuquerque eleventh graders to the  
3 small community of Amando Lopez in the Bajo Lempa region of El  
4 Salvador; and

5           WHEREAS, learners without borders volunteers John Bennett  
6 and Jeremy Wesevich lived with host families and taught chess  
7 to thirty-six youths for ten days; and

8           WHEREAS, John Bennett and Jeremy Wesevich served as youth  
9 ambassadors, educators and mentors to the chess students they  
10 taught; and

11           WHEREAS, the community of Amando Lopez now has a regular  
12 chess club that meets twice a week where young people and  
13 adults gather and practice chess; and

14           WHEREAS, Victor Lopez, Jack West and Roddy Hughes were  
15 instrumental in facilitating the first-ever learners without  
16 borders excursion;

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
18 OF NEW MEXICO that the numerous intellectual, social and  
19 leadership skill development benefits of the game of chess be  
20 recognized; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 10, 2017 be declared  
22 "Chess Service Day" in the senate and that recognition be given  
23 to the people involved in the chess service trip as  
24 ambassadors, mentors and upstanding representatives of New  
25 Mexico; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
2 transmitted to the president of learners chess academy and to  
3 participants of learners without borders.

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