

1 A MEMORIAL

2 LAUDING CHARACTER COUNTS AND DECLARING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1,
3 2008, AS "CHARACTER COUNTS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, young people will be the stewards of our
6 communities, nation and world in critical times, and the
7 present and future well-being of our society requires an
8 involved, caring citizenry with good character; and

9 WHEREAS, concerns about the character training of
10 children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by
11 and against youth threatens the physical and psychological
12 well-being of the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, more than ever, children need strong and
14 constructive guidance from their families and their
15 communities, including schools, youth organizations,
16 religious institutions and civic groups; and

17 WHEREAS, the character of a nation is only as strong as
18 the character of its individual citizens, and the public good
19 is advanced when young people are taught that good character
20 counts in personal relationships, in school and in the
21 workplace; and

22 WHEREAS, scholars and educators agree that people do not
23 automatically develop good character and, therefore,
24 conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing
25 institutions and individuals to help young people develop the

1 essential traits and characteristics that constitute good
2 character; and

3 WHEREAS, character development is, first and foremost,
4 an obligation of families, but efforts by faith communities,
5 schools and youth, civic and human service organizations also
6 play a very important role in supporting families by
7 fostering and promoting good character; and

8 WHEREAS, in July 1992, the Aspen declaration was written
9 by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics
10 scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework
11 for character education appropriate to a diverse and
12 pluralistic society; and

13 WHEREAS, the Aspen declaration states that "effective
14 character education is based on core ethical values which
15 form the foundation of democratic society"; trustworthiness,
16 respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship are
17 six pillars of character that transcend cultural, religious
18 and socioeconomic difficulties; and

19 WHEREAS, the Aspen declaration states further that "The
20 character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and
21 conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the
22 responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and
23 every social institution has the responsibility to promote
24 the development of good character";

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it declare Friday, February 1, 2008,
2 as "Character Counts Day" in the senate; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the six pillars of character
4 be endorsed; that all state and local government employees be
5 urged to seek out opportunities to incorporate these core
6 ethical values into their work with young people in park and
7 recreation activities, child care programs, community events
8 and intern and employee training; and that all citizens be
9 encouraged to model these traits of good character in an
10 ongoing commitment to promote character development and
11 ethical behavior in the youth of our community; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor and the New Mexico municipal
14 league. _____

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