

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE RICH CULTURAL HISTORY OF ALBUQUERQUE'S SOUTH
3 VALLEY AND DECLARING MARCH 3, 2011 "SOUTH VALLEY DAY" IN THE
4 SENATE.

5
6 WHEREAS, the South Valley of Albuquerque is home to some
7 of New Mexico's earliest settlements and remains the heart
8 and soul of the "Land of Enchantment" to this day; and

9 WHEREAS, the South Valley has made rich historical,
10 cultural, political and agricultural contributions to the
11 state of New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, the South Valley remains true to its original
13 character as a self-sustaining farming community nourished by
14 acequias and the Rio Grande, despite its proximity to
15 New Mexico's largest city; and

16 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of New Mexicans proudly call
17 the South Valley home, living and working in and near the
18 communities established long before the town of Albuquerque
19 was established: Armijo, Pajarito, Atrisco and Los Padillas
20 and the Atrisco land grant, the first of more than three
21 hundred land grants in what would become New Mexico and the
22 first in what would become the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, the South Valley now includes the culturally
24 interesting and diverse neighborhoods of San Jose, Barelás,
25 Vecinos del Bosque, Adobe Acres, Valley Gardens, Five Points

1 and Mountain View; and

2 WHEREAS, many of the families living in the South Valley
3 today can trace their roots to the families that settled the
4 area centuries ago; and

5 WHEREAS, the South Valley is home to the national
6 Hispanic cultural center; the South Broadway cultural center;
7 the Rio Grande zoo; Rio Grande high school, home of the
8 Ravens; and Albuquerque public schools' newest high school,
9 Atrisco heritage high school, home of the Jaguars; and

10 WHEREAS, the South Valley has provided New Mexico with
11 some of its most influential political leaders such as the
12 Aragons and United States Senators Dennis Chavez and Clinton
13 P. Anderson; cultural leaders such as poet Jimmy Santiago
14 Baca, actors Patrice Martinez and Vivian Vance, author
15 Rudolfo Anaya and musicians Liz Melendez, Roberto Jose Griego
16 and Eddie Dimas; athletes such as mixed martial arts trainer
17 Greg Jackson and boxer Bobby Foster; military leaders such as
18 Orlando Eli Sanchez; and craftsmen and artists such as the
19 Pimentel family; and

20 WHEREAS, archaeological evidence indicates that the
21 first pueblo builders entered the valley more than six
22 hundred years ago, as the sites of at least five pueblo
23 Indian communities have been identified in the valley south
24 of Central avenue and north of the Pueblo of Isleta; and

25 WHEREAS, the South Valley today is the site of the

1 historical Gutierrez-Hubbell house, Armijo school and Tingley
2 beach; and

3 WHEREAS, Isleta boulevard, which has been described as
4 the oldest continuously used highway in North America,
5 existing first as the Camino Real and later as part of
6 United States route 66, runs through the South Valley and was
7 first traveled in the 1500s by some members of the
8 expeditions of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and Juan de
9 Onate;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the South Valley be honored and
12 recognized for its unique contributions to the state of
13 New Mexico and that March 3, 2011 be declared "South Valley
14 Day" in the senate.

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25