

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF LAS VEGAS,  
3 CELEBRATING ITS INSTITUTIONS, REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE'S  
4 SUPPORT FOR LAS VEGAS'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT ITS WATER CRISIS  
5 AND DECLARING JANUARY 23, 2014 AS "LAS VEGAS DAY" IN THE  
6 SENATE.

7  
8 WHEREAS, Las Vegas was founded in 1835 as a Spanish land  
9 grant called Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Las Vegas  
10 Grandes; and

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

13 WHEREAS, the Acequia Madre in Las Vegas stands as a  
14 testament to one hundred fifty years of resourcefulness and  
15 ingenuity; and

16 WHEREAS, Las Vegas was a key rest stop, resupply point  
17 and protector of the Santa Fe trail, serving as a lifeline  
18 between the growing West and the eastern parts of the United  
19 States; and

20 WHEREAS, in one of the more riotous and colorful periods  
21 of its history, Las Vegas saw the likes of Vicente Silva and  
22 Las Gorras Blancas, Doc Holliday, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp  
23 and Jesse James mingling with its inhabitants and enjoying  
24 its entertainments; and

25 WHEREAS, Las Vegas provided some of Teddy Roosevelt's

1 "Rough Riders", and the city hosted the first "Rough Riders"  
2 reunion, which was attended by Roosevelt shortly before he  
3 became president; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is a signature place of charm and  
7 wonder in the "Land of Enchantment", a spectacular tourist  
8 destination, with fine historic hotels, authentic New Mexico  
9 character and easy access to other local historic sites and  
10 outdoor recreation; and

11 WHEREAS, aside from its historic and tourist  
12 attractions, Las Vegas is home to many critical state  
13 institutions; and

14 WHEREAS, one of these is the New Mexico behavioral  
15 health institute, the only state-owned and state-operated  
16 psychiatric hospital, which provides critical medical  
17 services to the state, including long-term nursing care for  
18 the elderly and disabled; and

19 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is also home to five major  
20 educational institutions, New Mexico highlands university,  
21 Luna community college, United world college, Las Vegas city  
22 schools and west Las Vegas public school district; and

23 WHEREAS, these educational institutions are gems of the  
24 city and crucibles of learning, teaching and discovery, not  
25 just for northern New Mexico, but for the entire state and

1 the globe; and

2 WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a burgeoning  
3 water crisis affecting Las Vegas, exacerbated by the state's  
4 years of drought, the limited surface area of the watershed  
5 surrounding the city and the age and conditions of the area's  
6 dams; and

7 WHEREAS, increasing water storage is Las Vegas's top  
8 priority for the city to alleviate its critical water supply  
9 situation; and

10 WHEREAS, Las Vegas has indicated that an expansion of  
11 the Bradner reservoir, involving both an increase in size of  
12 the Bradner dam and addressing safety issues connected with  
13 the dam, is key to alleviating Las Vegas's water crisis; and

14 WHEREAS, the enlargement of the Bradner dam has been  
15 endorsed by the San Miguel county economic development  
16 leadership collaborative; and

17 WHEREAS, the water crisis affecting Las Vegas will  
18 undermine the remarkable opportunities for tourism in and  
19 around Las Vegas, the city's economic development and the  
20 potential of the behavioral health institute and the city's  
21 five educational institutions;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the distinguished history and  
24 heritage of Las Vegas be recognized and that January 23, 2014  
25 be declared "Las Vegas Day" in the senate; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contributions of the  
2 behavioral health institute, New Mexico highlands university,  
3 Luna community college, United world college, Las Vegas city  
4 schools and west Las Vegas school district be celebrated; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support be expressed for Las  
6 Vegas in its efforts to resolve its water crisis by expanding  
7 the Bradner reservoir and dam; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the mayor of Las Vegas and to the city council  
10 of Las Vegas. \_\_\_\_\_

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