

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 18, 2013 TO BE "CHAPARRAL DAY" IN THE  
3 SENATE.

4  
5 WHEREAS, pursuant to 42 USC, Section 1479, colonias  
6 are communities within one hundred fifty miles of the  
7 United States-Mexico border that lack adequate  
8 infrastructure, including a potable water supply, adequate  
9 sewage systems and safe housing; and

10 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of New Mexicans reside in  
11 colonias, nearly all of which are unincorporated communities  
12 without the benefit of municipal organization or political  
13 structure; and

14 WHEREAS, Chaparral, an unincorporated census-designated  
15 place located in Dona Ana and Otero counties and situated  
16 next to White Sands missile range and Fort Bliss, is the  
17 largest colonia in New Mexico, with a population of fourteen  
18 thousand six hundred thirty-one as of the 2010 federal  
19 decennial census; and

20 WHEREAS, approximately eighty-five percent of the  
21 residents of Chaparral are Hispanic or Latino, according to  
22 the 2010 federal decennial census; and

23 WHEREAS, because of its large population, inadequate  
24 infrastructure and reliance on county governments for  
25 political support, Chaparral exemplifies the difficulties

1 faced by New Mexico's colonias; and

2 WHEREAS, despite the difficulties faced by Chaparral, it  
3 continues striving for excellence and celebrates the addition  
4 of educational opportunities in the Gadsden independent  
5 schools and Dona Ana community college;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Chaparral, New Mexico, be recognized  
8 for the difficulties it faces relating to infrastructure,  
9 political support and economic development; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in an effort to raise  
11 awareness about Chaparral and New Mexico's colonias,  
12 February 18, 2013 be proclaimed "Chaparral Day" in the  
13 senate; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the boards of county commissioners of Dona Ana  
16 and Otero counties and to the colonias infrastructure board.==