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HOUSE MEMORIAL 16

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Nathan "Nate" Cote

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 18, 2013 TO BE "CHAPARRAL DAY" IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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

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

WHEREAS, Chaparral, an unincorporated census-designated
place located in Dona Ana and Otero counties and situated next
to White Sands missile range and Fort Bliss, is the largest

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1 colonia in New Mexico, with a population of fourteen thousand
2 six hundred thirty-one as of the 2010 federal decennial census;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, approximately eighty-five percent of the
5 residents of Chaparral are Hispanic or Latino, according to the
6 2010 federal decennial census; and

7 WHEREAS, because of its large population, inadequate
8 infrastructure and reliance on county governments for political
9 support, Chaparral exemplifies the difficulties faced by New
10 Mexico's colonias; and

11 WHEREAS, despite the difficulties faced by Chaparral, it
12 continues striving for excellence and celebrates the addition
13 of educational opportunities in the Gadsden independent schools
14 and Dona Ana community college;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Chaparral, New
17 Mexico, be recognized for the difficulties it faces relating to
18 infrastructure, political support and economic development; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in an effort to raise
20 awareness about Chaparral and New Mexico's colonias, February
21 18, 2013 be proclaimed "Chaparral Day" in the house of
22 representatives; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the boards of county commissioners of Dona Ana
25 and Otero counties and to the colonias infrastructure board.

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