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SENATE MEMORIAL 70

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING MARCH 6, 2013 "WE THE PEOPLE DAY" IN THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the center for civic education is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries; and

WHEREAS, the center specializes in civics and citizenship education, law-related education and international educational exchange programs for developing democracies; and

WHEREAS, the center administers the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" instructional program that complements the regular social studies and language arts curricula in upper elementary, middle and high schools; and

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1           WHEREAS, the We the People program is funded by the United  
2 States department of education under the federal Education for  
3 Democracy Act; and

4           WHEREAS, the We the People program, through critical  
5 thinking exercises, problem-solving activities and cooperative  
6 learning techniques, enhances students' understanding of the  
7 institutions of American constitutional democracy while  
8 students discover the contemporary relevance of the United  
9 States constitution and bill of rights; and

10           WHEREAS, the program's culminating activity is a simulated  
11 congressional hearing in which students testify before a panel  
12 of judges and students demonstrate their knowledge and  
13 understanding of constitutional principles and have  
14 opportunities to evaluate, take and defend positions on  
15 relevant historical and contemporary issues; and

16           WHEREAS, simulated congressional hearings are held on both  
17 a competitive and noncompetitive basis in participating  
18 schools, with high school competition occurring first at the  
19 congressional district level, then statewide and state  
20 champions competing in the We the People finals in Washington,  
21 D.C.; and

22           WHEREAS, since the inception of the We the People program  
23 in 1987, more than twenty-eight million students and ninety  
24 thousand educators have participated in this innovative course  
25 of study, and approximately one thousand two hundred high

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1 school students and their teachers participate annually in the  
2 We the People national finals; and

3 WHEREAS, over the years, New Mexico teams have been among  
4 the top ten finalists at the We the People national finals  
5 several times, placing fourth on one occasion, and this year,  
6 Moriarty high school represents New Mexico at the twenty-sixth  
7 annual We the People national finals to be held on April 26-29;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, We the People companion programs actively engage  
10 students in the study of public policymaking and the prevention  
11 of bullying and violence in school; and

12 WHEREAS, the educational testing service and independent  
13 researchers have found that the We the People program is a  
14 "great educational success", whose students "significantly  
15 outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests  
16 taken", developed greater commitment to democratic principles  
17 and values than students in comparison groups and became  
18 energized about their place as citizens of the United States;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
20 OF NEW MEXICO that March 6, 2013 be declared "We the People  
21 Day" in the senate; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional  
24 delegation, the secretary of public education, the We the  
25 People team at Moriarty high school and the New Mexico center

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for democracy and civic education.

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