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SENATE MEMORIAL 12

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Las Vegas was a key rest stop, resupply point and protector of the Santa Fe trail, serving as a lifeline between

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1 the growing West and the eastern parts of the United States;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in one of the more riotous and colorful periods
4 of its history, Las Vegas saw the likes of Vicente Silva and
5 Las Gorras Blancas, Doc Holliday, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp and
6 Jesse James mingling with its inhabitants and enjoying its
7 entertainments; and

8 WHEREAS, Las Vegas provided some of Teddy Roosevelt's
9 "Rough Riders", and the city hosted the first "Rough Riders"
10 reunion, which was attended by Roosevelt shortly before he
11 became president; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is a signature place of charm and
15 wonder in the "Land of Enchantment", a spectacular tourist
16 destination, with fine historic hotels, authentic New Mexico
17 character and easy access to other local historic sites and
18 outdoor recreation; and

19 WHEREAS, aside from its historic and tourist attractions,
20 Las Vegas is home to many critical state institutions; and

21 WHEREAS, one of these is the New Mexico behavioral health
22 institute, the only state-owned and state-operated psychiatric
23 hospital, which provides critical medical services to the
24 state, including long-term nursing care for the elderly and
25 disabled; and

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1 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is also home to five major educational
2 institutions, New Mexico highlands university, Luna community
3 college, United world college, Las Vegas city schools and west
4 Las Vegas public school district; and

5 WHEREAS, these educational institutions are gems of the
6 city and crucibles of learning, teaching and discovery, not
7 just for northern New Mexico, but for the entire state and the
8 globe; and

9 WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a burgeoning
10 water crisis affecting Las Vegas, exacerbated by the state's
11 years of drought, the limited surface area of the watershed
12 surrounding the city and the age and conditions of the area's
13 dams; and

14 WHEREAS, increasing water storage is Las Vegas's top
15 priority for the city to alleviate its critical water supply
16 situation; and

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

21 WHEREAS, the enlargement of the Bradner dam has been
22 endorsed by the San Miguel county economic development
23 leadership collaborative; and

24 WHEREAS, the water crisis affecting Las Vegas will
25 undermine the remarkable opportunities for tourism in and

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1 around Las Vegas, the city's economic development and the
2 potential of the behavioral health institute and the city's
3 five educational institutions;

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

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

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the mayor of Las Vegas and to the city council
17 of Las Vegas.