

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 4, 2015 "LINCOLN COUNTY DAY" AT THE
3 SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, Hollywood has made millions of dollars based
6 on films set in the beauty, adventure and drama of the
7 historical American west; and

8 WHEREAS, the actual history of Lincoln county,
9 New Mexico, rivals and outshines the best script Hollywood
10 has ever produced; and

11 WHEREAS, being central to the original territory
12 occupied by the Mescalero bands of the Apache people and
13 representing the western edge of the Comanche territory, the
14 mountains and canyons of Lincoln county stood witness as
15 Apaches and Comanches and succeeding waves of Spanish,
16 Mexican and Anglo-American settlers competed, often
17 violently, for land and water; and

18 WHEREAS, the post-Civil War era saw a boom in the
19 western cattle industry, and by the mid-1870s, two rival
20 "rings" had formed to compete for land, water and power
21 within Lincoln county; and

22 WHEREAS, on February 18, 1878, the murder of one
23 ringleader, John Tunstall, by a posse deputized by Sheriff
24 William Brady and the subsequent revenge killing of Sheriff
25 Brady on April 1, 1878 began the infamous Lincoln county

1 war; and

2 WHEREAS, the Lincoln county war was conducted by men
3 with colorful names, such as "Buckshot" Anderson, "Dash"
4 Wait, "Big Jim" French and Billy "the Kid", and by groups
5 known as the "Seven Rivers Boys", the "Jesse Evans Gang" and
6 the "Regulators"; and

7 WHEREAS, many of the individuals in the Lincoln county
8 war were known alternatively to have worn a sheriff's badge
9 or to have been cattle rustlers and murderers at various
10 points in their careers; and

11 WHEREAS, during the Capitan Gap fire in the spring of
12 1950, a bear cub was rescued by firefighters and became
13 known as "Smokey Bear", Lincoln county's most famous native
14 son; and

15 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear became a national symbol for
16 forest fire prevention and the subject of the popular song
17 "Smokey the Bear"; and

18 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear lived at the national zoo in
19 Washington, D.C., for twenty-six years, was visited by
20 thousands of schoolchildren, received so much fan mail that
21 the United States postal service gave Smokey his own zip
22 code, and he is now buried at Smokey Bear historical park in
23 Capitan, New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, Lincoln county offers numerous opportunities
25 for hiking, backpacking and skiing within dramatic mountain

1 landscapes typified by Capitan peak and Sierra Blanca
2 mountain; and

3 WHEREAS, Ruidoso Downs within Lincoln county offers
4 both thoroughbred and quarter horse racing, including the
5 all-American futurity, the richest race in American quarter
6 horse racing;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Lincoln county be recognized as
9 having one of the most colorful and intriguing histories in
10 America, epitomizing the legend of the "Wild West" and as
11 being a beautiful and exciting place to live and visit; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 4, 2015 be
13 declared "Lincoln County Day" in the senate; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the Lincoln county board of county
16 commissioners. _____

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