

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 10, 2017 "CHESS SERVICE DAY" IN THE  
3 SENATE.

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5 WHEREAS, countless studies show that learning the game  
6 of chess serves to improve student outcomes in math and  
7 reading scores, overall cognitive ability and executive  
8 functioning skills; and

9 WHEREAS, learners chess academy, a New Mexico nonprofit  
10 organization founded in 2010, has developed after-school  
11 chess clubs in more than fifty schools over the last six  
12 years and has taught thousands of children how to play chess  
13 in the after-school programs and summer camps; and

14 WHEREAS, learners chess academy has initiated a new  
15 program called learners without borders with the objective to  
16 send youth ambassadors to a foreign country to teach chess to  
17 children in communities without sufficient resources; and

18 WHEREAS, in the summer of 2016, the first learners  
19 without borders program sent two Albuquerque eleventh graders  
20 to the small community of Amando Lopez in the Bajo Lempa  
21 region of El Salvador; and

22 WHEREAS, learners without borders volunteers  
23 John Bennett and Jeremy Wesevich lived with host families  
24 and taught chess to thirty-six youths for ten days; and

25 WHEREAS, John Bennett and Jeremy Wesevich served as

1 youth ambassadors, educators and mentors to the chess  
2 students they taught; and

3 WHEREAS, the community of Amando Lopez now has a regular  
4 chess club that meets twice a week where young people and  
5 adults gather and practice chess; and

6 WHEREAS, Victor Lopez, Jack West and Roddy Hughes were  
7 instrumental in facilitating the first-ever learners without  
8 borders excursion;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the numerous intellectual, social  
11 and leadership skill development benefits of the game of  
12 chess be recognized; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 10, 2017 be  
14 declared "Chess Service Day" in the senate and that  
15 recognition be given to the people involved in the chess  
16 service trip as ambassadors, mentors and upstanding  
17 representatives of New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the president of learners chess academy and to  
20 participants of learners without borders. \_\_\_\_\_

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