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News Release

February 29, 2012

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Pancho Villa State Park Celebrates 9th Annual Camp Furlong Day

COLUMBUS, N.M. – Mexican-American history and culture will be highlighted at Pancho Villa State Park's *9th Annual Camp Furlong Day*, March 10, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The annual event promotes friendship and goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

"*Camp Furlong Day* honors the strong ties between Mexico and the United States," said Alex Mares, Pancho Villa State Park acting manager. "Residents of both countries and visitors will join in the celebration of our common heritage."

Camp Furlong Day commemorates March 9, 1916, when Mexican General Francisco "Pancho" Villa and his troops invaded the Village of Columbus. The United States responded with the build-up of Camp Furlong, portions of which still exist within the park. At that time, General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing launched the Punitive Expedition into Mexico from Camp Furlong in an attempt to capture Pancho Villa. The search for Villa was unsuccessful.

This year, Pancho Villa State Park will host a series of special guest speakers, presentations and exhibits. The 13th Annual Cabalgata Binacional horseback parade will also be held in the Village of Columbus. Live entertainment and food will be available at the Village plaza.

The following programs will be presented at the Pancho Villa State Park Exhibit Hall during Camp Furlong Day:

9–9:45 a.m. – Historian Ken Emery, will provide the origin of the U.S. Air Force in Columbus

10–11 a.m. – 13th Annual Cabalgata Binacional horseback parade

11 a.m.–12 p.m. – Dr. Robert Bouilly, military historian with the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy in El Paso, will give a presentation on the Battle of Carrizal

1:15–2:15 p.m. – Interim Park Manager Alex Mares will discuss General Pershing's forgotten Apache scouts

2:30–3:45 p.m. – Pulitzer Prize winner Eileen Welsome, author of *The General and the Jaguar* will provide a lecture and book signing

4–5 p.m. – David D. Romo, author of *Ringside Seat to a Revolution* will provide a lecture and book signing

5:10–6 p.m. – A DVD documentary from the Edmundo Padilla Collection will feature recently discovered film of Pancho Villa

A display of native animal pelts and skulls will also be presented by Game and Fish Officer Napoleon Genereux in the Exhibit Hall patio.

Regular day-use and camping fees apply; walk-ins are free. For more information about Pancho Villa State Park, call 575-531-2711, 888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com. For more information about the Cabalgata Binacional and plaza events, please contact 575-494-1535 or 575-494-5815.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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