

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK
3 FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE APPROPRIATE DISPLAY AND
4 CONSERVATION OF THE TWO BELLS FROM THE HISTORIC BATTLESHIP
5 USS *NEW MEXICO*, BB-40.

6
7 WHEREAS, the USS *New Mexico*, BB-40, was launched on
8 April 23, 1917 and was christened by Margarita C de Baca, the
9 daughter of former New Mexico Governor Ezequiel Cabeza de
10 Baca; and

11 WHEREAS, the USS *New Mexico* was commissioned on
12 May 20, 1918, becoming the first United States navy warship
13 named after New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, the USS *New Mexico* was the lead ship of a class
15 of three super-dreadnought battleships, incorporating in her
16 design a revolutionary turbo-electric system of propulsion;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the USS *New Mexico* served with distinction
19 throughout World War II, earning six battle stars and
20 providing critical shore bombardment in actions at the
21 Aleutian islands, Guam, Tarawa, the Marshall islands, the
22 Mariana islands, Luzon and Okinawa; and

23 WHEREAS, the USS *New Mexico* was struck twice by kamikaze
24 attacks, the first on January 6, 1945 and the second on
25 May 12, 1945, resulting in the deaths of eighty-four crew

1 members and wounding more than two hundred others; and

2 WHEREAS, the USS *New Mexico* was decommissioned on
3 July 19, 1946 and was sold for scrap on November 9, 1947; and

4 WHEREAS, the bell from the USS *New Mexico* that is on
5 display at the university of New Mexico is believed to have
6 come to the state in 1945; and

7 WHEREAS, the bell from the USS *New Mexico* that is
8 currently in the collections vault at the New Mexico history
9 museum came to the state in 1948; and

10 WHEREAS, the bell from the USS *New Mexico* that is on
11 display at the university of New Mexico is on loan to the
12 state from the naval history and heritage command; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1948, the United States congress donated the
14 bell that is in the collections vault at the New Mexico
15 history museum to New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico, as the recipient of the bells, is
17 expected to display the bells in a careful, prudent,
18 dignified and respectful manner so as to accurately reflect
19 the history, heritage and traditions of the naval service;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department be
22 requested to convene a task force to make recommendations for
23 the appropriate display of the bells; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include one
25 representative of the cultural affairs department, one

1 representative of the department of military affairs, one
2 representative of the veterans' services department, one
3 representative of the facilities management division of the
4 general services department, one representative of the
5 university of New Mexico, one representative of the navy
6 league of the United States, New Mexico council and others
7 with expertise and interest in the history of the
8 USS *New Mexico*, BB-40; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force make
10 recommendations for how the bells might be best displayed and
11 identify any funding that might be necessary for the
12 appropriate display of the bells; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
14 report and recommendations to the military and veterans'
15 affairs committee by October 2, 2020; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs, the
18 secretary of veterans' services, the adjutant general of the
19 department of military affairs, the director of the
20 facilities management division of the general services
21 department, the president of the university of New Mexico,
22 the president of the navy league of the United States,
23 New Mexico council and the co-chairs of the military and
24 veterans' affairs committee. _____