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SENATE MEMORIAL 11

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Gregory A. Baca

A MEMORIAL

HONORING JAMES "JIM" P. WHITE AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, James "Jim" P. White, who served as a Republican senator for district 19 from 2016 to 2020, passed away in Albuquerque on January 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Senator White grew up on the south side of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Senator White caddied at the Oak Park country club in suburban Chicago throughout high school, earning an Evans scholars foundation golf caddie scholarship; and

WHEREAS, in college, Senator White met his wife, Jacquie, on a blind date; and

WHEREAS, Senator White and Jacquie were married in 1965 and immediately set off for Senator White's flight training

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1 school in Texas to begin a long adventure together in the
2 United States air force; and

3 WHEREAS, initially flying Boeing KC-135 stratotankers and
4 Lockheed C-130 Hercules planes, Senator White later shifted to
5 piloting helicopters, namely the Sikorsky HH-3E, nicknamed the
6 "jolly green giant"; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator White served more than thirteen tours of
8 duty, flew search and rescue in Vietnam and lastly served as
9 chief of staff for air force special operations command in
10 Florida; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator White retired honorably in 1992 as a
12 colonel after twenty-six years of service, having earned
13 numerous awards that include the air force legion of merit and
14 the distinguished flying cross; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator White then began a brief career as
16 airfield operations manager for the Albuquerque international
17 sunport; and

18 WHEREAS, after seven years, Senator White retired again to
19 support his wife's career and to have the time to enjoy his
20 family; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2009, Senator White's sense of duty compelled
22 him to answer the call to join the New Mexico legislature; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to representing district 19 in the
24 senate from 2016 to 2020, Senator White represented district 20
25 in the house of representatives from 2009 to 2014; and

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1 WHEREAS, Senator White's quiet, introspective and calm
2 demeanor earned him the respect of members of both parties; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator White was devoted to his family and
4 regularly kept in touch with his children, grandchildren,
5 siblings and extended family members; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator White was always ready to celebrate the
7 news of a wedding, graduation, promotion or new family member;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, an avid lifelong golfer, Senator White's
10 appreciation for the game mirrored his approach to life:
11 respect the game, play by the rules, celebrate the birdies and
12 do not dwell on the bogies; and

13 WHEREAS, he often teed off before sunrise, walked the
14 course with the bag over his shoulder and finished the
15 eighteenth hole in time for breakfast; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator White never shied from adventure, and his
17 stories are treasured family folklore: getting slightly
18 tangled in the great train robbery due to an abandoned car in
19 France, an illegal u-turn in South Korea's royal palace, a
20 passport debacle in Malaysia, dancing with the Maasai Mara in
21 Kenya, hiking the Grand canyon with a torn ligament and cycling
22 down Mauna Kea at the break of dawn; and

23 WHEREAS, a true storyteller, Senator White told each one
24 with a healthy dose of humor, while touching a great many lives
25 with his love, kindness and compassion; and

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