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HOUSE MEMORIAL 46

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HURLEY FAMILY'S  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO AND THE WORLD; HONORING THE NEW  
MEXICO MILITARY MUSEUM AND ITS COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING AND  
DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT NEW MEXICO'S MILITARY HISTORY.

WHEREAS, Major General Patrick J. Hurley, who brought his  
family to New Mexico in 1935, was one of the greatest diplomats  
and veterans of major world wars in history; and

WHEREAS, General Hurley began his military career as a  
captain in the Oklahoma national guard; and

WHEREAS, General Hurley was a member of the American  
expeditionary force in World War I and was deployed to France,  
during which time he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel;  
and

WHEREAS, he was appointed as assistant secretary of war

1 and later secretary of war in the Hoover administration; and

2 WHEREAS, when the United States entered World War II, he  
3 was promoted to brigadier general and went to the far east as  
4 General George C. Marshall's personal representative to examine  
5 the possibility of relieving United States troops on the island  
6 of Bataan; and

7 WHEREAS, General Hurley was appointed by President  
8 Franklin D. Roosevelt as ambassador to New Zealand and later as  
9 ambassador to China; and

10 WHEREAS, General Hurley also served as President  
11 Roosevelt's special representative to Russia and was the first  
12 American to visit the Eastern front; and

13 WHEREAS, for his military service, General Hurley received  
14 several awards, including the army distinguished service medal  
15 with oak leaf cluster; silver star; legion of merit;  
16 distinguished flying cross; purple heart; and World War I and  
17 World War II victory medals; and

18 WHEREAS, after retirement from military service, Patrick  
19 Hurley served as president of the uranium institute of America,  
20 a board member of the United Western Minerals company, a grand  
21 consul of Sigma Chi fraternity and a member of Phi Beta Kappa;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Patrick was active in New Mexico politics,  
24 running as the Republican party candidate for a United States  
25 senate seat in 1946, 1948 and 1952; and

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1           WHEREAS, Patrick was named to the New Mexico hall of fame,  
2           and after his 1963 passing, he was called "one of New Mexico's  
3           truly great men" by then-Governor Jack M. Campbell; and

4           WHEREAS, Patrick's son Wilson Hurley continued his  
5           father's legacy of military service and significant  
6           contribution to the state and nation; and

7           WHEREAS, Wilson Hurley attended the Los Alamos ranch  
8           school, studied under New Mexico artists such as John Young-  
9           Hunter, Theodore Van Soelen and Doel Reed and later attended  
10          the United States military academy at West Point, where he  
11          graduated in June 1945; and

12          WHEREAS, Wilson served as a pilot in the United States  
13          army air corps and the United States air force, which included  
14          a thirty-month tour in the Philippines and south Pacific; and

15          WHEREAS, Wilson returned to New Mexico in 1952 to practice  
16          law after completing law school at George Washington university  
17          and soon began flying with the 188th tactical fighter squadron  
18          of the New Mexico air national guard; and

19          WHEREAS, Wilson was deployed as a United States air force  
20          liaison and forward air controller in the Vietnam conflict and  
21          the Korea conflict, during which time he achieved the rank of  
22          lieutenant colonel and received the distinguished flying cross;  
23          and

24          WHEREAS, Wilson gave up his law practice at the age of  
25          forty to devote himself full time to painting; and

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1           WHEREAS, since his first solo art exhibition at the  
2 Panhandle-Plains historical museum in Canyon, Texas, in 1971,  
3 Wilson has had more than one thousand two hundred paintings  
4 sold to private and corporate collectors, and at least eleven  
5 museums across the nation hold collections of his paintings;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Wilson's work has won numerous awards for his  
8 artistic talent, including the 1977 trustees' award from the  
9 national cowboy hall of fame, the 1984 prix de west award from  
10 the national academy of western art and the Eiteljorg museum of  
11 American Indians and western art award for excellence in  
12 western art in 1991; and

13           WHEREAS, Wilson was named a fellow of the American society  
14 of aviation artists, was elected to the Oklahoma hall of fame  
15 in 1996 and the Tulsa hall of fame in 2001 and became the  
16 Albuquerque museum foundation's second notable New Mexican in  
17 2002; and

18           WHEREAS, many of Wilson's large-scale landscape paintings  
19 are on display in public buildings, including the Albuquerque  
20 international sunport and the Oklahoma state capitol; and

21           WHEREAS, the New Mexico military museum was established to  
22 honor the service and sacrifice of New Mexicans in the armed  
23 forces, originating as the Bataan memorial museum honoring the  
24 state's national guard units involved in World War II and the  
25 lives of those lost in the Bataan death march; and

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1 WHEREAS, the museum is housed in a historic Santa Fe  
2 armory and now preserves and interprets New Mexico's full  
3 military history across all eras and conflicts; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2025, the museum inducted Wilson Hurley into  
5 the New Mexico national guard's hall of honor, and the museum  
6 is hosting an exhibition of Wilson Hurley's work beginning  
7 February 12, 2026;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the house of  
10 representatives recognize the significant contributions to New  
11 Mexico and to the world by the Hurley family and honor the New  
12 Mexico military museum for its commitment to preserving and  
13 disseminating knowledge about the state's military history; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the department of military affairs, the adjutant  
16 general of New Mexico, the director of the New Mexico military  
17 museum and the chair of the New Mexico military museum  
18 foundation.