

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Patrick was active in New Mexico politics,
25 running as the Republican party candidate for a United States
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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WHEREAS, the museum is housed in a historic Santa Fe armory and now preserves and interprets New Mexico's full military history across all eras and conflicts; and

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

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

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