

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES ISSUE A POSTAGE STAMP
COMMEMORATING THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS.

WHEREAS, twenty years before the civil rights movement of the 1960s, young Native American men served in the United States military with great honor during World War II in a special fighting unit that would impress upon the public that loyalty and military service to America is above one's ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers distinguished themselves during World War II by serving with outstanding valor in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, due to the outstanding service of the code talkers, as well as Japanese Americans and the Tuskegee airmen, President Harry Truman ended segregation in the armed forces in 1948 with executive order number 9981; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese empire attacked Pearl Harbor, and the United States congress declared war the following day; and

WHEREAS, the United States government called on the Navajo Nation to support the military effort by recruiting and enlisting twenty-nine Navajo men to serve as marine corps radio operators in 1942; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo marine corps radio operators, who

became known as the "Navajo code talkers", developed a highly successful coded form of the Navajo language that ultimately numbered over six hundred fifty code terms and that made it impossible for the Japanese enemy to decipher American battle messages about the times and places of attack, thereby greatly assisting in saving countless lives and hastening the end of World War II in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, by 1945, the number of Navajo enlistees stood at approximately five hundred forty, with around four hundred of those serving as trained code talkers; and

WHEREAS, fifty-six years after the end of World War II, in July 2001, President George W. Bush presented the original twenty-nine code talkers with the congressional gold medal of honor, although only five were alive to receive their medals; and

WHEREAS, in November 2001, the remaining four hundred Navajo code talkers received the congressional silver medal of honor in Window Rock, Arizona;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature officially recognize the outstanding contributions to the war efforts of the United States by the Navajo code talkers and honors their exceptional bravery and patriotism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature requests that the United States postal service issue a commemorative

postal stamp to honor the service of the Navajo code talkers during World War II; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the president of the United States, the president of the Navajo Nation, the president of the United States senate, the speaker of the United States house of representatives, the postmaster general of the United States and the citizens' stamp advisory committee of the United States postal service.