

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 30

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT
THE CREATION OF A COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED HONORABLY DURING THE COLD WAR,
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2, 1945 AND ENDING DECEMBER 26, 1991.

WHEREAS, it is generally agreed that the cold war took
place during the period between September 2, 1945 and December
26, 1991; and

WHEREAS, during this period of time, three hundred twenty-
five Americans died as a result of hostile action, including
more than two hundred airmen killed by communist air defenses,
and more than forty American intelligence aircraft were shot
down, killing sixty-four cryptologists and forty crew members;
and

WHEREAS, countless other Americans had their lives

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1 disrupted through military service in support of the cold war;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the cold war was punctuated by such crises as the
4 "Berlin airlift", the "Cuban missile crisis" and the building
5 of the Berlin wall, each of which brought the world to the
6 brink of disaster; and

7 WHEREAS, the tide turned on November 9, 1989, when people
8 officially were able to come and go as they wished from east to
9 west Berlin, and they began to tear the wall down; and

10 WHEREAS, the Soviet Union finally collapsed on Christmas
11 day 1991, ending the cold war for all time; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2002 the United States congress passed
13 legislation to approve a cold war service medal; and

14 WHEREAS, because the legislation did not require the
15 United States department of defense to issue the medal, the
16 department has issued only a cold war recognition certificate
17 for both military and civilian service; and

18 WHEREAS, the cold war medal was designed by Nadine
19 Russell, the chief of creative heraldry at the United States
20 army's institute of heraldry; and

21 WHEREAS, the medal currently exists as a civilian medal
22 that may be privately purchased but is not distributed by the
23 United States government; and

24 WHEREAS, Senators Hillary Clinton and Susan M. Collins and
25 Representative Robert E. Andrews reintroduced legislation in

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1 April 2007 in the United States senate and the house of
2 representatives, respectively, to establish officially the
3 "cold war service medal"; and

4 WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would authorize the
5 secretary of defense to issue a service medal, to be known as
6 the "cold war service medal" to those who served honorably in
7 the United States armed forces during the cold war;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of New Mexico's
10 congressional delegation be requested to support legislation
11 introduced by Senators Clinton and Collins and Representative
12 Andrews to establish a military service medal to honor cold war
13 veterans; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to each member of the New Mexico congressional
16 delegation.

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