

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 32

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Pinto

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9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS ASSOCIATION  
12 AND REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDING  
13 FOR A NAVAJO CODE TALKER MUSEUM AND VETERANS' CENTER.

14  
15 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers association plans to  
16 develop and construct a Navajo code talker museum and veterans'  
17 center as a perpetual monument to the legacy of the Navajo code  
18 talkers, one which will provide historical, cultural and  
19 educational opportunities for many people; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States marine corps along with the  
21 Navajo code talkers used the Navajo language to develop and  
22 establish a unique code that was not broken by the enemies of  
23 the United States, and these efforts in World War II were  
24 significant, and without them, the United States might not have  
25 been victorious; and

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1           WHEREAS, the distinguished contribution of these aging  
2 warriors is immeasurable, their bravery unquestionable and  
3 their honored place in history rightly deserved; and

4           WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers association veterans'  
5 nonprofit organization is composed of Navajo veterans of World  
6 War II who were the Navajo code talkers and their descendants;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, the association intends to preserve and honor the  
9 legacy of the Navajo code talkers and to provide much-needed  
10 facilities and services to support and honor those veterans;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, the association has a mission to plan and develop  
13 a Navajo code talker museum and veterans' center in support of  
14 the legacy of the Navajo code talkers and other veterans; and

15           WHEREAS, a Navajo code talker museum and veterans' center  
16 will perpetuate the heroism of the Navajo code talkers and  
17 instill the ideals of the Navajo code talkers in future  
18 generations through educational and charitable activities; and

19           WHEREAS, a museum and veterans' center will provide a  
20 venue in which people from across the United States and around  
21 the world can learn more about these heroes; and

22           WHEREAS, a museum and veterans' center will provide  
23 recognition and public gratitude for, and capture the histories  
24 and stories of, Navajo code talkers and will offer practicable  
25 services to veterans; and

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1           WHEREAS, a Navajo code talker museum and veterans' center  
2 will need technical assistance and major funding to construct a  
3 museum, veterans' center, Navajo language institute, native  
4 healing area and related amenities and infrastructure; and

5           WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers intend to, and can,  
6 develop and design the project to be economically feasible and  
7 self-sustaining in the long term; and

8           WHEREAS, a Navajo code talker museum and veterans' center  
9 will be a unique tourist destination that will enhance the  
10 local community and economy by providing tourism-related jobs,  
11 services and amenities to residents of the Navajo Nation,  
12 McKinley county, northwest New Mexico and the state;

13           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its appreciation to the  
15 Navajo code talkers association for undertaking this initiative  
16 and that it respectfully request that the United States  
17 congress provide funding to support the planning, design and  
18 construction of a Navajo code talker museum and veterans'  
19 center; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the president of the Navajo Nation, the speaker  
22 of the Navajo Nation council, the New Mexico congressional  
23 delegation, the Navajo code talkers association and the  
24 governor.