

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 51

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AND PRESERVE THE NAVAJO CODE
12 TALKERS' LEGACY AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNTRY.

13
14 WHEREAS, the few living Navajo code talkers are
15 undertaking a multi-year project to build an educational,
16 historical and humanitarian facility that will bring pride to
17 Native American and non-Native American communities alike,
18 educate the young and old and conserve the instruments of
19 freedom gifted to the American people by an awe-inspiring group
20 of young Navajo men during World War II; and

21 WHEREAS, during World War II, these modest young Navajo
22 men fashioned from the Navajo language the only unbreakable
23 code in military history; and

24 WHEREAS, these Navajo radio operators transmitted the code
25 throughout the dense jungles and exposed beachheads of the

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1 Pacific theater from 1942 to 1945, passing over eight hundred
2 error-free messages in forty-eight hours at Iwo Jima alone; and

3 WHEREAS, the bravery and ingenuity of these young Navajo
4 men gave the United States and allied forces the upper hand
5 they so desperately needed, finally hastening the war's end and
6 assuring victory for the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, after being sworn to secrecy for twenty-three
8 years after the war, these young Navajo men eventually came to
9 be known as Navajo code talkers and were honored by President
10 George W. Bush more than fifty years after the war with
11 congressional gold and silver medals in 2001; and

12 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers are now in their
13 eighties, and with fewer than fifty remaining from the original
14 four hundred, the urgency to capture and share their stories
15 and memorabilia from their service in the war is now critical;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, these American treasures and revered elders of
18 the Navajo Nation have come together to tell their story, one
19 that has never been heard, from their own hearts and in their
20 own words; and

21 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers' heroic story of an
22 ancient language, valiant people and a decisive victory that
23 changed the path of modern history is the greatest story never
24 told; and

25 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers ultimately envision a

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1 lasting memorial, the Navajo code talkers museum and veterans
2 center, on donated private land; and

3 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers' mission is to create a
4 place where their legacy of service will inspire others to
5 achieve excellence and instill core values of pride, discipline
6 and honor in all those who visit; and

7 WHEREAS, through the lead efforts of the Navajo code
8 talkers foundation and many partners and individuals, the
9 Navajo code talkers' legacy, history, language and code will be
10 preserved to benefit all future generations;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress, department
13 of the interior, department of veterans affairs, department of
14 health and human services, department of defense, department of
15 agriculture, department of state and department of energy be
16 requested to support the preservation of the Navajo code
17 talkers' remarkable legacy; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the president pro tempore of the United States
20 senate, the speaker of the United States house of
21 representatives, the secretary of the interior, the secretary
22 of defense, the secretary of veterans affairs, the secretary of
23 health and human services, the secretary of agriculture, the
24 secretary of state, the secretary of energy and the New Mexico
25 congressional delegation.

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