

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
3 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

4
5 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan restored its
6 independence in October 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet
7 Union, proclaiming itself the heir to the Azerbaijan
8 Democratic Republic, which was established in 1918 and was
9 the first secular democratic republic in the Turkic and
10 Muslim world and among the first nation-states granting the
11 right to vote to women; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States of America was one of the
13 first countries to recognize the independence of the Republic
14 of Azerbaijan in 1991 and to establish full-fledged
15 diplomatic relations with it in 1992; and

16 WHEREAS, over the last twenty years, the Republic of
17 Azerbaijan has consolidated its sovereignty and independence
18 and has become one of the fastest-developing countries in the
19 region and beyond; and

20 WHEREAS, the election of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a
21 non-permanent seat on the United Nations security council in
22 October 2011 is a testament to the growing role and increased
23 capabilities of the Republic of Azerbaijan in maintaining
24 peace and security in the wider Middle East; and

25 WHEREAS, the United States of America, along with the

1 United Nations, recognizes and supports the Republic of
2 Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and

3 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan has an area of
4 thirty-three thousand four hundred forty square miles, which
5 also includes the Karabakh and Nakhchivan regions; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Republic
7 of Azerbaijan have developed a strong strategic partnership
8 based on shared values and interests and a shared vision; and

9 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan is a staunch ally
10 and strategic partner of the United States of America in the
11 critically important Caspian region; and

12 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan was one of the first
13 countries to render unconditional assistance to the United
14 States after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001,
15 opening its airspace and airports for use by coalition troops
16 in Afghanistan and sending officers and soldiers to serve
17 shoulder-to-shoulder with United States troops; and

18 WHEREAS, today around forty percent of all supplies for
19 troops of the United States of America and its allies in
20 Afghanistan are delivered via the Republic of Azerbaijan; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Republic
22 of Azerbaijan continue their successful cooperation in
23 counterterrorism efforts and the nonproliferation of weapons
24 of mass destruction, which is of particular importance, given
25 that the Republic of Azerbaijan is an ally nation located

1 between Iran and Russia; and

2 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan possesses vast oil
3 and gas resources and contributes to the energy security of
4 the United States of America and the European nations, and it
5 is a critical element of the southern gas corridor, which
6 will further enhance diversification of energy supplies used
7 by European allies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the
8 United States of America; and

9 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan has a long-standing tradition of
10 peaceful coexistence with various ethnic and religious
11 communities and is one of the few secular countries in the
12 Middle East with a predominately Muslim population that
13 maintains close, friendly ties with Israel; and

14 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan attaches great
15 importance to expanding its relations in all spheres,
16 including trade, cultural and educational exchanges with the
17 state of New Mexico, which is the only state in the United
18 States of America to which the Republic of Azerbaijan has
19 appointed an honorary consul, Emmit Richard "Art" McHaffie,
20 who lives in Santa Fe; and

21 WHEREAS, it is critical for the United States of America
22 to further strengthen the relations with its allies, such as
23 the Republic of Azerbaijan, to advance common interests
24 currently and in the future;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of a strategic
2 partnership and friendship between the United States of
3 America and the Republic of Azerbaijan be recognized and
4 further enhanced through mutual efforts over the years to
5 come; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the office of the governor, the secretary of
8 cultural affairs and the secretary of economic development.

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