

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD T. KNOWLES,
3 LIEUTENANT GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY (RETIRED), FOR HIS
4 INTEGRITY, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO THE NATION, HIS
5 ADOPTED STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE NEW MEXICO MILITARY
6 INSTITUTE.

7
8 WHEREAS, born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1916, Lieutenant
9 General Richard T. Knowles' lifetime spanned nearly a century
10 and his military career more than three decades, with public
11 service woven into the fabric of his entire life; and

12 WHEREAS, Richard T. Knowles left the university of
13 Illinois in 1942 to join the army as a second lieutenant in
14 the artillery; and

15 WHEREAS, during World War II, a young Captain Knowles
16 took part in the Normandy invasion and served with General
17 and President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Europe and later at the
18 pentagon during the Eisenhower administration; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Knowles also took part in the
20 Inchon landing during the Korean conflict and was awarded the
21 silver star for leading a counterattack that routed
22 seventy-five North Koreans from inside his battalion
23 perimeter; and

24 WHEREAS, in the service of his country, General Knowles
25 earned awards that include the distinguished service medal

1 with four oak leaf clusters, the silver star medal, the
2 bronze star medal, the distinguished flying cross, the purple
3 heart for a wound received in Vietnam and twenty-five air
4 medals; and

5 WHEREAS, General Knowles, in his typically modest
6 fashion, said of his distinguished military service and
7 numerous acts of valor, "I was just doing what I was trained
8 to do"; and

9 WHEREAS, General Knowles retired in 1974 as deputy
10 commander of the eighth army, having held various high-level
11 commands throughout his career, including commander of the
12 196th light infantry brigade and commanding general of task
13 force Oregon, Americal division; and

14 WHEREAS, after retirement, General Knowles and his
15 family moved to Roswell, where he opened an antique store and
16 ran for the state legislature; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Knowles served in the New Mexico
18 house of representatives, representing district 57, for eight
19 straight terms until he retired in 1998 because, as he said,
20 "It's time for a rotation."; and

21 WHEREAS, during his long service in the house,
22 Representative Knowles served as minority floor leader and as
23 a member of the house appropriations and finance, education,
24 energy and natural resources, government and Indian affairs,
25 judiciary, rules and order of business and transportation and

1 public works standing committees; and

2 WHEREAS, he also served on a number of interim
3 committees, and he contributed to the development of many
4 pieces of landmark legislation that continue to have a
5 positive impact on New Mexico today; and

6 WHEREAS, comparing his service in the army with his
7 service in the legislature, Representative Knowles once said,
8 "...the army is a lot easier [than the legislature] because
9 on the battlefield, you can only get killed once. You can
10 get killed in committee in Santa Fe two or three times a
11 day."; and

12 WHEREAS, "The General", as he was called by his
13 colleagues in the legislature, was known for his open mind,
14 integrity, quick wit, hard work and outgoing personality and
15 for reaching across party lines to work toward passage of
16 meaningful legislation through what he called "the art of
17 compromise"; and

18 WHEREAS, General Knowles often said, "We represent
19 different constituents with different needs. Democracy is
20 founded on diversity. That's the power of our country and
21 the power of our state."; and

22 WHEREAS, as state representative, "The General", besides
23 championing the people's issues, also was a strong advocate
24 for the New Mexico military institute in Roswell, which made
25 him an honorary alumnus and inducted him into its hall of

1 fame; and

2 WHEREAS, in recognition of his efforts to establish a
3 legislative scholarship program for New Mexico young people
4 from across the state to attend the New Mexico military
5 institute, the legislature, on his retirement, renamed the
6 award the "General Richard T. Knowles Legislative
7 Scholarship"; and

8 WHEREAS, the legislature now supports as many as one
9 hundred twelve scholarships, one for each legislative
10 district, for qualifying students; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1994, in recognition of his extraordinary
12 life, General Knowles was awarded the congressional medal of
13 honor society's most coveted award, the "Distinguished
14 Citizen's Award"; and

15 WHEREAS, General Knowles was preceded in death by his
16 wife of four decades, Elizabeth Kay Knowles; and

17 WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughters,
18 Diane Buchwald, Katherine Buck and Rebecca Crosby; his son,
19 former Second Judicial District Judge Richard J. Knowles; his
20 stepsons, Stanley Warfield Crosby III and Steven Wood Chaney;
21 and his daughters-in-law, Sandra Clinton and Laurie Chaney;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, he is also survived by nine grandchildren and
24 four great-grandchildren;

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

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that former Representative
2 Richard T. Knowles, United States army, lieutenant general
3 (retired), be honored for his integrity and his contributions
4 and service to his country and his adopted state of
5 New Mexico and to the New Mexico military institute in
6 Roswell; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to members of the Knowles family and to the
9 New Mexico military institute. _____

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