

HOUSE MEMORIAL 106

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Kelly K. Fajardo and Alonzo Baldonado

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING MARCH 16, 2017 "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HONORING NEW MEXICO HEROES.

WHEREAS, New Mexicans recognize the sacrifices that military men and women make to preserve the freedoms that individuals have today; and

WHEREAS, in honor of those sacrifices, the medal of honor was created during the American Civil War as the highest military decoration presented by the United States government to a member of the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for the medal of honor, the recipient must have engaged in distinguished actions at the risk of the recipient's own life, above and beyond the call of duty, against an enemy of the United States; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the medal of honor are categorized

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 by the state in which they enlisted or served; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico is credited with nine medal of honor
3 recipients; and

4 WHEREAS, April 6, 2017 is the fiftieth anniversary of
5 United States army Specialist Fourth Class Daniel D. Fernandez
6 being awarded the medal of honor posthumously on April 6, 1967
7 by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

8 WHEREAS, Specialist Fernandez was a native New Mexican
9 from Valencia county who served in the United States army; and

10 WHEREAS, on February 18, 1966, in Hau Nghia province,
11 Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Fernandez showed great valor
12 when he threw himself on an exploding grenade while shielding
13 four soldiers attending to a wounded officer nearby, thereby
14 saving their lives at the sacrifice of his own; and

15 WHEREAS, United States army Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry,
16 a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, received the medal of honor
17 on July 12, 2011 for his courageous actions in Afghanistan
18 during the war on terror; and

19 WHEREAS, United States army Staff Sergeant Franklin D.
20 Miller of Albuquerque, New Mexico, saw action during the
21 Vietnam War and received the medal of honor on June 15, 1971;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, United States army Corporal Hiroshi Miyamura, a
24 Gallup native, saw action during the Korean War and received
25 the medal of honor on November 4, 1953; and

.207735.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, United States army Captain Robert S. Scott
2 enlisted in Santa Fe, New Mexico, during World War II and was
3 recognized for his actions on Okinawa, Japan, and received the
4 medal of honor on October 14, 1944; and

5 WHEREAS, United States army Private First Class Alejandro
6 R. Ruiz, who was born in Loving, New Mexico, received the medal
7 of honor on June 14, 1946 for his heroic conduct during World
8 War II; and

9 WHEREAS, United States marine Lieutenant Alexander
10 Bonnyman, Jr., was awarded the medal of honor on October 28,
11 1946 for his valor during World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, during the Indian campaigns, calvary Private Eben
13 Stanley was awarded the medal of honor for his gallantry in
14 action in Arizona on March 25 and March 27, 1873, and cavalry
15 First Sergeant Francis Oliver received the medal of honor for
16 his gallantry in battle on October 20, 1869; and

17 WHEREAS, the following seven medal of honor recipients
18 were born in New Mexico but either moved to, or enlisted in the
19 military service from, another state, to which their award was
20 credited: United States army Private Joe P. Martinez; United
21 States army Private Harold H. Moon, Jr.; United States army
22 Private First Class Jose F. Valdez; United States army air
23 forces Brigadier General Kenneth N. Walker; United States army
24 Staff Sergeant Delbert O. Jennings; United States army Sergeant
25 First Class Louis R. Rocco; and United States marine Lance

.207735.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 Corporal Kenneth L. Worley; and

2 WHEREAS, it is incumbent on New Mexicans of all ages to
3 recognize how the life, service and honorable sacrifices of
4 these bravest of men contribute to the rich and proud history
5 of New Mexico;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 16, 2017
8 be declared "Medal of Honor Day" in the house of
9 representatives; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the adjutant general of the department of
12 military affairs, the national honor society at Valencia high
13 school and the family of Daniel D. Fernandez.