

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 91

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

INTRODUCED BY

Gay G. Kernan

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THARON DRAKE FOR FOLLOWING HIS DREAMS AND FOR HIS  
PARALYMPIC SWIMMING ACHIEVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, Tharon Drake is a remarkable young athlete who  
lives in Hobbs; and

WHEREAS, in November 2007, Tharon developed retrograde and  
anterograde amnesia that lasted six months; and

WHEREAS, in February 2008, Tharon began losing his  
eyesight and had completely lost his eyesight by June 2008; and

WHEREAS, undaunted, Tharon decided to continue to follow  
his dreams; and

WHEREAS, the support of his family, including Shawn Drake,  
Kimberly Hamed, Kaitlyn Drake, Tyler Drake and Karen Drake,  
and of many others made Tharon's journey possible; and

WHEREAS, Tharon began to participate in paralympic

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

1 swimming, an adaptation of the sport of swimming for athletes  
2 with disabilities such as visual impairment; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2012, Tharon missed making the paralympic  
4 swimming team for the London Paralympic games by one spot; and

5 WHEREAS, for the next four years, through ups and downs,  
6 Tharon made his dream come true by qualifying for the 2016  
7 Paralympic games in Rio de Janeiro; and

8 WHEREAS, Tharon won silver medals at the 2016 Paralympic  
9 games in the one-hundred-meter breaststroke and the four-  
10 hundred-meter freestyle; and

11 WHEREAS, Tharon also competed in the one-hundred-meter  
12 freestyle, the one-hundred-meter breaststroke and the two-  
13 hundred-meter individual medley at the Rio de Janeiro games;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Tharon currently holds the United States  
16 paralympic swimming team records for the S11 disability  
17 swimming classification for blind swimmers in twelve events;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Tharon also holds the United States paralympic  
20 swimming team records in the fifty-meter and the one-hundred-  
21 meter breaststroke and in the four-by-one-hundred-meter medley  
22 relay; and

23 WHEREAS, when Tharon returned from Rio de Janeiro, he  
24 wanted to give back to his community and did so by speaking at  
25 every school in Hobbs and sharing his story of overcoming his

.207369.1

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

1 visual impairment and following his dream; and

2 WHEREAS, over ten thousand people and eight thousand  
3 children have touched Tharon's two silver medals; and

4 WHEREAS, Tharon continues to let any person touch his  
5 medals with the simple promise that the person will believe  
6 that the person can do anything that the person puts the  
7 person's mind to; and

8 WHEREAS, Tharon was named a New Mexico legend of the pool  
9 by the New Mexico activities association and received awards  
10 from the city of Hobbs and the Hobbs municipal school district;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
12 OF NEW MEXICO that Tharon Drake be recognized for his courage  
13 and drive to follow his dreams to become a paralympic athlete;  
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tharon be congratulated for  
16 his significant achievement as a winner of two silver medals in  
17 the swimming competition at the Rio de Janeiro paralympic  
18 games; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to Tharon Drake.