

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

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

HOUSE MEMORIAL 47

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

Debbie A. Rodella and Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

HONORING THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AZERBAIJAN  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC BECOMING THE FIRST DEMOCRACY IN THE MUSLIM  
WORLD.

WHEREAS, following the October Revolution in the Russian  
empire, the Azerbaijani people established the Azerbaijan  
Democratic Republic on May 28, 1918, which became the first  
secular democracy in the entire Muslim world; and

WHEREAS, the new democracy enacted many progressive  
reforms, including granting the right to vote to women in 1919,  
which made Azerbaijan not only the first majority-Muslim nation  
to empower women, but it also put the country ahead of many  
advanced nations at the time in championing women's rights; and

WHEREAS, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was recognized  
by other democratic nations, including the United States; and

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

1           WHEREAS, after meeting a delegation of Azerbaijanis in  
2 Paris, United States President Woodrow Wilson said, "One day  
3 there came in a very dignified and interesting group of  
4 gentlemen who were from Azerbaijan ... I was talking to men who  
5 talked the same language that I did in respect of ideas and  
6 conceptions of liberty, right and justice"; and

7           WHEREAS, in 1920, the Soviet army invaded Azerbaijan,  
8 ending the nation's independence until 1991, when Azerbaijan  
9 restored its freedom following the collapse of the Union of  
10 Soviet Socialist Republics and became the Republic of  
11 Azerbaijan; and

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

15           WHEREAS, the United States and the United Nations  
16 recognize and support Azerbaijan's sovereignty, independence  
17 and territorial integrity; and

18           WHEREAS, since 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan has  
19 consolidated its freedom and independence and has become one of  
20 the world's fastest developing and modernizing countries, the  
21 largest economy of the region and the biggest trade partner  
22 with the United States in the south Caucasus; and

23           WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of Azerbaijan  
24 have expanded their partnership and developed multi-faceted  
25 cooperation on issues ranging from energy security; the

.209959.1

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

1 nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction; the fight  
2 against international terrorism; and drug and human  
3 trafficking; and

4 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan was one of the first  
5 countries to render comprehensive and unconditional assistance  
6 to the United States immediately after the terror attacks of  
7 September 11, 2001, opening its airspace and airports for use  
8 by coalition troops in Afghanistan and sending its soldiers to  
9 serve shoulder-to-shoulder with American troops; and

10 WHEREAS, since 2001, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been  
11 providing a vital transportation route for over forty percent  
12 of all supplies for American and coalition troops based in  
13 Afghanistan; and

14 WHEREAS, possessing vast oil and gas resources, the  
15 Republic of Azerbaijan contributes to the energy security of  
16 the United States, Europe and Israel and is a critical element  
17 of the "Southern Gas Corridor", which will further enhance  
18 diversification of energy supplies to European allies; and

19 WHEREAS, it is critical for the United States to continue  
20 to further support the freedom and independence of its allies,  
21 such as Azerbaijan, and strengthen relations in order to  
22 advance the common interest now and in the future; and

23 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan is represented by its consulate  
24 general in Los Angeles, California, and an honorary consulate  
25 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and has formed a strong partnership

.209959.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 with New Mexico over the last few years; and

2 WHEREAS, May 28, 2018 will be celebrated as the one-  
3 hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Azerbaijan's  
4 first secular democracy, an event that is of great significance  
5 for all Azerbaijanis around the world, including many in New  
6 Mexico, and for all supporters of freedom;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it hereby  
9 congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the one-hundredth  
10 anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and express a  
11 firm support for the Republic of Azerbaijan's independence,  
12 sovereignty and territorial integrity within its  
13 internationally recognized borders in line with the national  
14 foreign policy of the United States; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that further strengthening of the  
16 strategic partnership and friendship between the United States  
17 and the Republic of Azerbaijan be encouraged through mutual  
18 efforts over the years to come; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the president of the United States, the  
21 president pro tempore of the United States senate, the speaker  
22 of the United States house of representatives and the members  
23 of the New Mexico congressional delegation.