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HOUSE MEMORIAL 27

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Rebecca Dow and Luis M. Terrazas

A MEMORIAL

HONORING DIANNE MILLER HAMILTON AND RECOGNIZING HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Dianne Miller Hamilton, who served as a Republican state representative for district 38, died at her home in Tijeras on November 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton served nine terms, from 1998 to 2016, representing District 38, which includes Grant, Sierra and Hidalgo counties; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on January 31, 1934; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton attended grade school and high school in Kansas City and graduated from the university of Kansas in 1955 with a degree in speech communication; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton taught in Kansas City

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1 public schools and pursued a broadcasting career until she
2 married her husband of sixty years, United States marine corps
3 officer John A. Hamilton, in December 1956; and

4 WHEREAS, for the next twenty years, Representative
5 Hamilton and their four children, Drew, Jared, Lynn and
6 Merritt, followed her husband's career in the military until
7 John retired from the United States marine corps in 1974 when
8 the family moved to Silver City; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was a well-known radio
10 host in Silver City, broadcasting two daily radio programs on
11 KSIL from 1976 to 1999; and

12 WHEREAS, during her legislative career, Representative
13 Hamilton served on the following standing committees: consumer
14 and public affairs; education; government, elections and Indian
15 affairs; and transportation and public works; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton also served on the
17 following interim committees: economic and rural development
18 and telecommunications; economic and rural development;
19 legislative ethics; legislative education study and military
20 and veterans' affairs; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was a key figure in early
22 efforts to establish statewide voter identification and was
23 known as an advocate for veterans and ranchers; and

24 WHEREAS, people fondly recall that Representative Hamilton
25 appreciated the legislative staff members who support the

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1 legislature and the public; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was a popular legislator
3 who was known to "hug her way through the capitol"; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton has also been lauded as a
5 stateswoman who paved the way for other female legislators; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was an active volunteer
7 and leader in Silver City where she helped found the first
8 shelter for victims of domestic violence; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton served on the board of
10 regents at western New Mexico university from 1990 to 1998,
11 serving as president of the board for the last four years of
12 her term; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton held leadership roles in
14 many community organizations, including the Grant county arts
15 council, the Gila regional medical center foundation, the board
16 of Hidalgo medical services and the Silver City library board;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton received the governor's
19 award for outstanding New Mexico woman in 1994 and was named
20 the Silver City/Grant county citizen of the year in 1995; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2000, Representative Hamilton received the New
22 Mexico district attorneys' award for outstanding representative
23 of the year and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities
24 from western New Mexico university in 2006; and

25 WHEREAS, in November 2009, the Dianne Miller Hamilton

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1 military museum celebrated its grand opening in Truth or
2 Consequences; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton is survived by her
4 children, John Andrew "Drew" Hamilton and Tricia, Jared Miller
5 Hamilton and Mike, Lynn Hamilton O'Connell and Bob, and Merritt
6 Hamilton Allen; her granddaughters, Blythe Hamilton and Joan
7 Marie O'Connell; and three generations of Armstrongs led by
8 Bobbi and Rich Armstrong; and

9 WHEREAS, the state honored Representative Hamilton on
10 November 22, 2021 when she laid in state in the state capitol
11 rotunda; and

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Dianne Miller
14 Hamilton be honored and recognized for her public service and
15 dedication to the residents of New Mexico and her strong
16 advocacy for those whose voices are often not heard; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to John Andrew "Drew" Hamilton, Jared Miller
19 Hamilton, Lynn Hamilton O'Connell and Merritt Hamilton Allen.