

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 14

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Harlan Vincent

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING JANUARY 23, 2024 "SMOKEY BEAR DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, one spring day in 1950, a wildfire broke out in the Capitan mountains of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, as crews from New Mexico and Texas battled the blaze, they received a report of a lone bear cub seen wandering near the fire line; and

WHEREAS, about thirty of the firefighters were trapped directly in the path of the fire storm but survived the fire; and

WHEREAS, the little cub took refuge in a charred tree, escaping the fire but suffering badly burned paws and hind legs; and

WHEREAS, the crew removed the cub from the tree, and the

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

1 cub was flown to Santa Fe where a veterinarian treated and
2 bandaged the cub's burns; and

3 WHEREAS, the cub found a home at the national zoo in
4 Washington, D.C., and was recognized as the living symbol of
5 Smokey Bear; and

6 WHEREAS, upon Smokey Bear's death in 1976, he was returned
7 to New Mexico and was buried at the Smokey Bear historical park
8 in Capitan; and

9 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear continues to be one of the most-loved
10 ambassadors for fire prevention, with a legacy that remains
11 relevant to this day; and

12 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear was so popular that the United States
13 postal service gave him his own postage stamp, and he is the
14 only "person" to have his own zip code besides the president;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's signature phrase "only you can
17 prevent wildfires" is part of the American lexicon; and

18 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's message resonates today with nearly
19 nine out of ten wildfires nationwide caused by humans; and

20 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's unique and important role is
21 focused on preventing unwanted, human-caused wildfires by
22 educating the public and encouraging them to be responsible;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the United States forest service is celebrating
25 Smokey Bear's eightieth birthday in 2024;

.227013.1

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

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 23,
3 2024 be designated "Smokey Bear Day" in the house of
4 representatives in recognition of the ongoing urgency of
5 reducing wildfires; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
8 resources, the forestry division of the energy, minerals and
9 natural resources department and the Capitan division and the
10 chief of the United States forest service.