

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HURLEY FAMILY'S  
3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO AND THE WORLD; HONORING THE NEW  
4 MEXICO MILITARY MUSEUM AND ITS COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING AND  
5 DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT NEW MEXICO'S MILITARY HISTORY.

6  
7 WHEREAS, Major General Patrick J. Hurley, who brought  
8 his family to New Mexico in 1935, was one of the greatest  
9 diplomats and veterans of major world wars in history; and

10 WHEREAS, General Hurley began his military career as a  
11 captain in the Oklahoma national guard; and

12 WHEREAS, General Hurley was a member of the American  
13 expeditionary force in World War I and was deployed to  
14 France, during which time he rose to the rank of lieutenant  
15 colonel; and

16 WHEREAS, he was appointed as assistant secretary of war  
17 and later secretary of war in the Hoover administration; and

18 WHEREAS, when the United States entered World War II, he  
19 was promoted to brigadier general and went to the far east as  
20 General George C. Marshall's personal representative to  
21 examine the possibility of relieving United States troops on  
22 the island of Bataan; and

23 WHEREAS, General Hurley was appointed by President  
24 Franklin D. Roosevelt as ambassador to New Zealand and later  
25 as ambassador to China; and

1           WHEREAS, General Hurley also served as President  
2 Roosevelt's special representative to Russia and was the  
3 first American to visit the Eastern front; and

4           WHEREAS, for his military service, General Hurley  
5 received several awards, including the army distinguished  
6 service medal with oak leaf cluster; silver star; legion of  
7 merit; distinguished flying cross; purple heart; and World  
8 War I and World War II victory medals; and

9           WHEREAS, after retirement from military service, Patrick  
10 Hurley served as president of the uranium institute of  
11 America, a board member of the United Western Minerals  
12 company, a grand consul of Sigma Chi fraternity and a member  
13 of Phi Beta Kappa; and

14           WHEREAS, Patrick was active in New Mexico politics,  
15 running as the Republican party candidate for a United States  
16 senate seat in 1946, 1948 and 1952; and

17           WHEREAS, Patrick was named to the New Mexico hall of  
18 fame, and after his 1963 passing, he was called "one of New  
19 Mexico's truly great men" by then-Governor Jack M. Campbell;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, Patrick's son Wilson Hurley continued his  
22 father's legacy of military service and significant  
23 contribution to the state and nation; and

24           WHEREAS, Wilson Hurley attended the Los Alamos ranch  
25 school, studied under New Mexico artists such as John Young-

1 Hunter, Theodore Van Soelen and Doel Reed and later attended  
2 the United States military academy at West Point, where he  
3 graduated in June 1945; and

4 WHEREAS, Wilson served as a pilot in the United States  
5 army air corps and the United States air force, which  
6 included a thirty-month tour in the Philippines and south  
7 Pacific; and

8 WHEREAS, Wilson returned to New Mexico in 1952 to  
9 practice law after completing law school at George Washington  
10 university and soon began flying with the 188th tactical  
11 fighter squadron of the New Mexico air national guard; and

12 WHEREAS, Wilson was deployed as a United States air  
13 force liaison and forward air controller in the Vietnam  
14 conflict and the Korea conflict, during which time he  
15 achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel and received the  
16 distinguished flying cross; and

17 WHEREAS, Wilson gave up his law practice at the age of  
18 forty to devote himself full time to painting; and

19 WHEREAS, since his first solo art exhibition at the  
20 Panhandle-Plains historical museum in Canyon, Texas, in 1971,  
21 Wilson has had more than one thousand two hundred paintings  
22 sold to private and corporate collectors, and at least eleven  
23 museums across the nation hold collections of his paintings;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Wilson's work has won numerous awards for his

1 artistic talent, including the 1977 trustees' award from the  
2 national cowboy hall of fame, the 1984 prix de west award  
3 from the national academy of western art and the Eiteljorg  
4 museum of American Indians and western art award for  
5 excellence in western art in 1991; and

6 WHEREAS, Wilson was named a fellow of the American  
7 society of aviation artists, was elected to the Oklahoma hall  
8 of fame in 1996 and the Tulsa hall of fame in 2001 and became  
9 the Albuquerque museum foundation's second notable New  
10 Mexican in 2002; and

11 WHEREAS, many of Wilson's large-scale landscape  
12 paintings are on display in public buildings, including the  
13 Albuquerque international sunport and the Oklahoma state  
14 capitol; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico military museum was established  
16 to honor the service and sacrifice of New Mexicans in the  
17 armed forces, originating as the Bataan memorial museum  
18 honoring the state's national guard units involved in World  
19 War II and the lives of those lost in the Bataan death march;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the museum is housed in a historic Santa Fe  
22 armory and now preserves and interprets New Mexico's full  
23 military history across all eras and conflicts; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2025, the museum inducted Wilson Hurley into  
25 the New Mexico national guard's hall of honor, and the museum

1 is hosting an exhibition of Wilson Hurley's work beginning  
2 February 12, 2026;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the house of  
5 representatives recognize the significant contributions to  
6 New Mexico and to the world by the Hurley family and honor  
7 the New Mexico military museum for its commitment to  
8 preserving and disseminating knowledge about the state's  
9 military history; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the department of military affairs, the  
12 adjutant general of New Mexico, the director of the New Mexico  
13 military museum and the chair of the New Mexico military  
14 museum foundation.

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