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A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MARY ANN VAUGHN AND DECLARING
APRIL 17, 2009 "MARY ANN VAUGHN DAY".

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn is descended from a proud line
of New Mexicans with roots spanning four decades in the state
and more than nine generations in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn's descendants include Jacob
Meisser, who fought for Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary
War; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn was born in Yokohama, Japan, on
April 17, 1949, and she was the only daughter of
James A. Vaughn of New Mexico and Vivienne Joy Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Vivienne Wilson and Mary Ann Vaughn were not
permitted to immigrate to the United States due to Vivienne's
Swedish and Mary Ann's Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, James Vaughn appealed to Senator Patrick
McCarren of Nevada to introduce private legislation in the
United States congress to allow the immigration of Vivienne
and Mary Ann; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 1950, congress passed a private
bill permitting Vivienne Wilson and Mary Ann Vaughn to
immigrate to the United States; and

WHEREAS, on the very day her immigration rights were
secured, Vivienne Wilson died in Tokyo, Japan, of

1 tuberculosis; and

2 WHEREAS, the infant, Mary Ann, was kidnapped by her
3 nanny and held incommunicado in the slums of Yokohama, Japan,
4 and was raised there; and

5 WHEREAS, the family of Vivienne Wilson discovered
6 Mary Ann's whereabouts and sought her custody and extradition
7 to Sweden, their country of residence; and

8 WHEREAS, the case of *Lagerfelt v. Yamaguchi* was brought
9 on Mary Ann's behalf in the name of the king of Sweden in the
10 Tokyo high court in 1956; and

11 WHEREAS, upon prevailing in the lawsuit, Mary Ann
12 remained in the custody of the Swedish ambassador to Japan
13 and attended the American school in Japan, graduating in the
14 1960s; and

15 WHEREAS, Mary Ann's New Mexico grandparents,
16 Osmar Andrew and Hester Ruby Vaughn of Questa, sought
17 tirelessly to locate her, but to no avail; and

18 WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn, now known as Mrs. Marianne
19 Kuroda, also sought tirelessly to locate her family of origin
20 in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, after fifty-four years, she located her family
22 of origin from an obituary of her father in the *Albuquerque*
23 *Journal*; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Kuroda has finally been reunited with her
25 New Mexico family and roots, and the New Mexico and Tokyo

1 branches of the Vaughn family have now grown together;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the life of Mary Ann Vaughn be
4 commemorated and that April 17, 2009 be declared "Mary Ann
5 Vaughn Day" in honor of her sixtieth birthday; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to Mrs. Marianne Wilson Kuroda (Mary Ann Vaughn)
8 of Kashiwa, Japan, and Mr. Akira Honda, the honorable mayor of
9 Kashiwa, Japan.

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