

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011, AS "UNITED STATES ARMY
3 RANGER SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LEROY A. PETRY DAY AT THE
4 LEGISLATURE".

5
6 WHEREAS, on July 9, 2011, Sergeant First Class Leroy A.
7 Petry received the medal of honor from President Barack Obama
8 at the White House; and

9 WHEREAS, Sergeant Petry graduated from St. Catherine
10 Indian school in Santa Fe in 1998; and

11 WHEREAS, he attended New Mexico highlands university for
12 a year before deciding to enlist with the United States Army
13 rangers in September 1999; and

14 WHEREAS, he was in the middle of training when the
15 September 11, 2001 attacks happened; and

16 WHEREAS, on May 26, 2008, his unit was pinned down by
17 heavy enemy fire during a rare Army ranger daytime raid in
18 the remote eastern part of Paktia province, Afghanistan; and

19 WHEREAS, he was already shot and wounded in both his
20 legs when an enemy grenade exploded near his location,
21 wounding some of his comrades, and moments later, another
22 grenade landed even closer; and

23 WHEREAS, Sergeant Petry grabbed the grenade to throw it
24 away from his unit, but it detonated as he released it, and
25 the grenade blew off his right hand; and

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Petry underwent extensive
2 rehabilitation and was fitted with a prosthetic bionic hand,
3 but rather than retire from military service, he asked to
4 remain enlisted on active-duty status and be sent back to
5 Afghanistan; and

6 WHEREAS, he is the first medal of honor recipient from
7 the seventy-fifth ranger regiment, only the second
8 active-duty person since the end of the Vietnam war to be
9 awarded the medal of honor, the ninth soldier to receive the
10 medal from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the
11 thirteenth medal of honor recipient from New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, he has served two hundred thirty combat
13 missions and has been deployed eight times to Iraq and
14 Afghanistan; and

15 WHEREAS, he has already received two bronze stars, one
16 purple heart, three Army commendation medals, two Army
17 achievement medals, three army good conduct medals, the
18 valorous unit award, the national defense service medal, the
19 Afghanistan campaign medal with combat star, the Iraq
20 campaign medal with combat star and the global war on
21 terrorism expeditionary and service medals; and

22 WHEREAS, he enjoys golf, pheasant hunting and fishing
23 and is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in business
24 management at Pierce college in Washington state;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Sunday, September 11, 2011, be
2 declared "United States Army Ranger Sergeant First Class
3 Leroy A. Petry Day at the Legislature"; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to United States Army Ranger Sergeant First Class
6 Leroy A. Petry. _____

SJM 2
Page 3

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25