

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AND PRESERVE THE NAVAJO CODE
3 TALKERS' LEGACY AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNTRY.

4
5 WHEREAS, the few living Navajo code talkers are
6 undertaking a multi-year project to build an educational,
7 historical and humanitarian facility that will bring pride to
8 Native American and non-Native American communities alike,
9 educate the young and old and conserve the instruments of
10 freedom gifted to the American people by an awe-inspiring
11 group of young Navajo men during World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, during World War II, these modest young Navajo
13 men fashioned from the Navajo language the only unbreakable
14 code in military history; and

15 WHEREAS, these Navajo radio operators transmitted the
16 code throughout the dense jungles and exposed beachheads of
17 the Pacific theater from 1942 to 1945, passing over eight
18 hundred error-free messages in forty-eight hours at Iwo Jima
19 alone; and

20 WHEREAS, the bravery and ingenuity of these young Navajo
21 men gave the United States and the allied forces the upper
22 hand they so desperately needed, finally hastening the war's
23 end and assuring victory for the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, after being sworn to secrecy for twenty-three
25 years after the war, these brave Navajo men eventually came to SJM 41
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1 be known as Navajo code talkers and were honored by President
2 George W. Bush more than fifty years after the war with
3 congressional gold and silver medals in 2001; and

4 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers are now in their
5 eighties, and with fewer than fifty remaining from the
6 original four hundred, the urgency to capture and share their
7 stories and memorabilia from their service in the war is now
8 critical; and

9 WHEREAS, these American treasures and revered elders of
10 the Navajo Nation have come together to tell their story, one
11 that has never been heard, from their own hearts and in their
12 own words; and

13 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers' heroic story of an
14 ancient language, valiant people and a decisive victory that
15 changed the path of modern history is the greatest story
16 never told; and

17 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers ultimately envision a
18 lasting memorial, the Navajo code talkers museum and veterans
19 center, on donated private land; and

20 WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers' mission is to create a
21 place where their legacy of service will inspire others to
22 achieve excellence and instill core values of pride,
23 discipline and honor in all those who visit; and

24 WHEREAS, through the lead efforts of the Navajo code
25 talkers foundation and many partners and individuals, the

1 Navajo code talkers' legacy, history, language and code will
2 be preserved to benefit all future generations;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress,
5 department of the interior, department of veterans affairs,
6 department of health and human services, department of
7 defense, department of agriculture, department of state and
8 department of energy be requested to support the preservation
9 of the Navajo code talkers' remarkable legacy; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the president pro tempore of the United States
12 senate, the speaker of the United States house of
13 representatives, the secretary of the interior, the secretary
14 of defense, the secretary of veterans affairs, the secretary
15 of health and human services, the secretary of agriculture,
16 the secretary of state, the secretary of energy and the New
17 Mexico congressional delegation. _____