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HOUSE MEMORIAL 53

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Sarah Maestas Barnes

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2015 "TWO EAGLES DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, an American pilot and his Russian co-pilot made history in the clouds when they broke records crossing the Pacific ocean together in a helium-filled balloon; and

WHEREAS, Troy Bradley of Albuquerque and Leonid Tiukhtyaev of Moscow left the coast of Japan in their gas balloon, dubbed *Two Eagles*, on January 25, 2015 and touched down just off western Mexico six days later on January 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Troy Bradley tweeted the team's progress as they crossed the Pacific, messaging that *Two Eagles* had landed safely just off the coast of Baja, Mexico, where the two men were picked up by a fishing boat and brought ashore; and

WHEREAS, the flight set a record for time in the air of .199604.2

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1 one hundred sixty-one hours and seventeen minutes, surpassing
2 the previous record of one hundred thirty-seven hours, five
3 minutes and fifty seconds set by *Double Eagle II*; and

4 WHEREAS, the flight also broke the record for distance
5 traveled, covering some six thousand six hundred forty-six
6 miles and breaking a 1981 record of five thousand two hundred
7 eight miles; and

8 WHEREAS, although others have gone farther and for longer
9 periods of time in airborne balloons before, *Two Eagles* differs
10 in that no heat source such as a propane burner was used to
11 keep the balloon aloft; and

12 WHEREAS, only helium gas was used to propel *Two Eagles*;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley, who first soloed at age fourteen,
15 has logged more than six thousand two hundred hours aloft and
16 holds nearly sixty world ballooning records; and

17 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley's many awards include the highest
18 honor bestowed on balloonists worldwide, the Montgolfiere
19 diploma, for exceptional achievement in ballooning; and

20 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley is the first person in history to
21 set records in gas, hot air and hybrid roziere balloons that
22 use both hot air and helium; and

23 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley owns and operates a commercial
24 balloon company and lives with his wife Tami and their two
25 children in Albuquerque; and

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