

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THARON DRAKE FOR FOLLOWING HIS DREAMS AND FOR HIS
3 PARALYMPIC SWIMMING ACHIEVEMENTS.

4
5 WHEREAS, Tharon Drake is a remarkable young athlete who
6 lives in Hobbs; and

7 WHEREAS, in November 2007, Tharon developed retrograde
8 and anterograde amnesia that lasted six months; and

9 WHEREAS, in February 2008, Tharon began losing his
10 eyesight and had completely lost his eyesight by June 2008;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, undaunted, Tharon decided to continue to follow
13 his dreams; and

14 WHEREAS, the support of his family, including Shawn
15 Drake, Kimberly Hamed, Kaitlyn Drake, Tyler Drake and Karen
16 Drake, and of many others made Tharon's journey possible; and

17 WHEREAS, Tharon began to participate in paralympic
18 swimming, an adaptation of the sport of swimming for athletes
19 with disabilities such as visual impairment; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2012, Tharon missed making the paralympic
21 swimming team for the London Paralympic games by one spot;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, for the next four years, through ups and downs,
24 Tharon made his dream come true by qualifying for the 2016
25 Paralympic games in Rio de Janeiro; and

1 WHEREAS, Tharon won silver medals at the 2016 Paralympic
2 games in the one-hundred-meter breaststroke and the
3 four-hundred-meter freestyle; and

4 WHEREAS, Tharon also competed in the one-hundred-meter
5 freestyle, the one-hundred-meter breaststroke and the
6 two-hundred-meter individual medley at the Rio de Janeiro
7 games; and

8 WHEREAS, Tharon currently holds the United States
9 paralympic swimming team records for the S11 disability
10 swimming classification for blind swimmers in twelve events;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Tharon also holds the United States paralympic
13 swimming team records in the fifty-meter and the one-hundred-
14 meter breaststroke and in the four-by-one-hundred-meter
15 medley relay; and

16 WHEREAS, when Tharon returned from Rio de Janeiro, he
17 wanted to give back to his community and did so by speaking
18 at every school in Hobbs and sharing his story of overcoming
19 his visual impairment and following his dream; and

20 WHEREAS, over ten thousand people and eight thousand
21 children have touched Tharon's two silver medals; and

22 WHEREAS, Tharon continues to let any person touch his
23 medals with the simple promise that the person will believe
24 that the person can do anything that the person puts the
25 person's mind to; and

1 WHEREAS, Tharon was named a New Mexico legend of the
2 pool by the New Mexico activities association and received
3 awards from the city of Hobbs and the Hobbs municipal school
4 district;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Tharon Drake be recognized for his
7 courage and drive to follow his dreams to become a paralympic
8 athlete; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tharon be congratulated for
10 his significant achievement as a winner of two silver medals
11 in the swimming competition at the Rio de Janeiro paralympic
12 games; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
14 transmitted to Tharon Drake. _____

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