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HOUSE MEMORIAL 77

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton and Debra M. Sariñana

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING BOBBIE L. NOBLES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS
COMMUNITY, NEW MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, Bobbie L. Nobles was born on September 13, 1932
in Bernalillo, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles was one of fourteen children in his
family; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, Mr. Nobles' family left Bernalillo to
become itinerant farm workers, permanently settling in
California, where Bobbie graduated from high school in 1959;
and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles joined the United States air force in
1951, becoming a jet pilot, and in 1974, he retired as a
lieutenant colonel at Kirtland air force base in Albuquerque;
and

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1 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles was a decorated United States air
2 force pilot, serving a second combat tour in Vietnam as an
3 advisor to the Vietnam air force, and he became lasting friends
4 with his Vietnamese counterparts; and

5 WHEREAS, after the fall of Saigon, Mr. Nobles became
6 concerned about the welfare of his friends, knowing the danger
7 and risk they would endure under the new regime; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles retired and became actively involved
9 in Albuquerque's southeast Asian refugee resettlement program
10 through Catholic charities; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles kept track of Asian military pilots
12 and family members and provided them with support to evade and
13 exit their countries and to enroll in American refugee
14 programs; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles' efforts brought American freedom,
16 safety and citizenship to more than one hundred Asian families
17 whom he had worked with in the United States air force before
18 the United States' withdrawal from Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and
19 Vietnam; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles has been recognized with several civic
21 awards for his work with the Asian American community; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles co-founded the Asian American
23 association of New Mexico, was greatly appreciated among the
24 Asian community for his tireless and generous work and was
25 affectionately called "Mr. Bobbie"; and

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1 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles was an honored veteran who served
2 during times of war, was a recognized leader in the Asian
3 American community and Albuquerque's international district for
4 demonstrating kindness, humanity and service to others; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles died on January 2, 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles is survived by his son, David G.
7 Nobles, and David's wife, Sherry; six of his fourteen siblings,
8 Catherine Mason, Jean (Gene) Nobles, Nellie Jo Casey, Tommy
9 Nobles, Helen Zeiler and Jerry Nobles; and numerous nieces and
10 nephews;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
13 Bobbie L. Nobles and that it honor a debt of gratitude to Mr.
14 Nobles for his many years of selfless service, for his
15 sacrifices to fight for the freedom that all Americans enjoy
16 today, for his actions to share the promise of freedom with
17 others in peril and for his significant humanitarian service to
18 New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the family of Bobbie L. Nobles.