

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AZERBAIJAN
3 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC BECOMING THE FIRST DEMOCRACY IN THE
4 MUSLIM WORLD.

5 WHEREAS, following the October Revolution in the Russian
6 empire, the Azerbaijani people established the Azerbaijan
7 Democratic Republic on May 28, 1918, which became the first
8 secular democracy in the entire Muslim world; and

9 WHEREAS, the new democracy enacted many progressive
10 reforms, including granting the right to vote to women in
11 1919, which made Azerbaijan not only the first majority-
12 Muslim nation to empower women, but it also put the country
13 ahead of many advanced nations at the time in championing
14 women's rights; and

15 WHEREAS, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was
16 recognized by other democratic nations, including the United
17 States; and

18 WHEREAS, after meeting a delegation of Azerbaijanis in
19 Paris, United States President Woodrow Wilson said, "One day
20 there came in a very dignified and interesting group of
21 gentlemen who were from Azerbaijan ... I was talking to men
22 who talked the same language that I did in respect of ideas
23 and conceptions of liberty, right and justice"; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1920, the Soviet army invaded Azerbaijan,
25 ending the nation's independence until 1991, when Azerbaijan

1 restored its freedom following the collapse of the Union of
2 Soviet Socialist Republics and became the Republic of
3 Azerbaijan; and

4 WHEREAS, the United States was one of the first
5 countries to recognize the Republic of Azerbaijan and
6 establish full-fledged diplomatic relations with it; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States and the United Nations
8 recognize and support Azerbaijan's sovereignty, independence
9 and territorial integrity; and

10 WHEREAS, since 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan has
11 consolidated its freedom and independence and has become one
12 of the world's fastest developing and modernizing countries,
13 the largest economy of the region and the biggest trade
14 partner with the United States in the south Caucasus; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of
16 Azerbaijan have expanded their partnership and developed
17 multi-faceted cooperation on issues ranging from energy
18 security; the nonproliferation of weapons of mass
19 destruction; the fight against international terrorism; and
20 drug and human trafficking; and

21 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan was one of the first
22 countries to render comprehensive and unconditional
23 assistance to the United States immediately after the terror
24 attacks of September 11, 2001, opening its airspace and
25 airports for use by coalition troops in Afghanistan and

1 sending its soldiers to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with
2 American troops; and

3 WHEREAS, since 2001, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been
4 providing a vital transportation route for over forty percent
5 of all supplies for American and coalition troops based in
6 Afghanistan; and

7 WHEREAS, possessing vast oil and gas resources, the
8 Republic of Azerbaijan contributes to the energy security of
9 the United States, Europe and Israel and is a critical
10 element of the "Southern Gas Corridor", which will further
11 enhance diversification of energy supplies to European
12 allies; and

13 WHEREAS, it is critical for the United States to
14 continue to further support the freedom and independence of
15 its allies, such as Azerbaijan, and strengthen relations in
16 order to advance the common interest now and in the future;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan is represented by its consulate
19 general in Los Angeles, California, and an honorary consulate
20 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and has formed a strong partnership
21 with New Mexico over the last few years; and

22 WHEREAS, May 28, 2018 will be celebrated as the one-
23 hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Azerbaijan's
24 first secular democracy, an event that is of great
25 significance for all Azerbaijanis around the world, including

1 many in New Mexico, and for all supporters of freedom;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it hereby
4 congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the one-hundredth
5 anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and express
6 a firm support for the Republic of Azerbaijan's independence,
7 sovereignty and territorial integrity within its
8 internationally recognized borders in line with the national
9 foreign policy of the United States; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that further strengthening of the
11 strategic partnership and friendship between the United
12 States and the Republic of Azerbaijan be encouraged through
13 mutual efforts over the years to come; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the president of the United States, the
16 president pro tempore of the United States senate, the speaker
17 of the United States house of representatives and the members
18 of the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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