

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 4, 2020 "SMOKEY BEAR DAY" IN THE SENATE.

3
4 WHEREAS, one spring day in 1950, a wildfire broke out in
5 the Capitan mountains of New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, as crews from New Mexico and Texas battled the
7 blaze, they received a report of a lone bear cub seen
8 wandering near the fire line; and

9 WHEREAS, about thirty of the firefighters were trapped
10 directly in the path of the fire storm but survived the fire;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the little cub took refuge in a charred tree,
13 escaping the fire but suffering badly burned paws and hind
14 legs; and

15 WHEREAS, the crew removed the cub from the tree, and the
16 cub was flown to Santa Fe where a veterinarian treated and
17 bandaged the cub's burns; and

18 WHEREAS, the cub found a home at the national zoo in
19 Washington, D.C., and was recognized as the living symbol of
20 Smokey Bear; and

21 WHEREAS, upon Smokey Bear's death in 1976, he was
22 returned to New Mexico and was buried at the Smokey Bear
23 historical park in Capitan; and

24 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear continues to be one of the
25 most-loved ambassadors for fire prevention, with a legacy

1 that remains relevant to this day; and

2 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's seventy-fifth birthday was
3 celebrated on August 9, 2019; and

4 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear was so popular that the United
5 States postal service gave him his own postage stamp, and he
6 is the only "person" to have his own zip code besides the
7 president; and

8 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's signature phrase "only you can
9 prevent wildfires" is part of the American lexicon; and

10 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's message resonates today with
11 nearly nine out of ten wildfires nationwide caused by humans;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Smokey Bear's unique and important role is
14 focused on preventing unwanted, human-caused wildfires by
15 educating the public and encouraging them to be responsible;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 4, 2020 be designated
18 "Smokey Bear Day" in the senate in recognition of the ongoing
19 urgency of reducing wildfires; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
22 resources, the forestry division of the energy, minerals and
23 natural resources department and the Capitan division and the
24 chief of the United States forest service. _____