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HOUSE MEMORIAL 30

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Meredith A. Dixon and Debra M. Sariñana and Susan K. Herrera
and Christine Chandler

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 7, 2023 "JIM WALTHER DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, as the executive director of the national museum
of nuclear science and history in Albuquerque, Jim Walther has
educated and inspired the global community in furthering public
education and understanding of the peaceful applications of
nuclear technology for more than a quarter of a century; and

WHEREAS, Jim Walther has served as the director of the
national museum of nuclear science and history since relocating
to Albuquerque in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Jim Walther received his bachelor of arts degree
in visual arts from the West Virginia university school of arts
and has worked in the museum business for thirty-nine years;
and

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1 WHEREAS, Jim Walther previously served as the vice
2 president of programs and exhibits at the museum of discovery
3 and science in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as well as the
4 director of exhibits at Cumberland science museum and Grassmere
5 wildlife park in Nashville, Tennessee; and

6 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
7 history, the largest museum of its type in the world, is the
8 nation's only congressionally chartered museum in the field of
9 nuclear history and science, a Smithsonian-affiliate museum and
10 a member of the association of science and technology centers;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
13 history was founded in 1969, and under Jim Walther's leadership
14 has expanded significantly, including moving into a larger
15 facility, initiating nuclear science week in 2009 and
16 overseeing new web-based content and partnerships to expand the
17 museum's reach worldwide; and

18 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
19 history leads New Mexico efforts in science, technology,
20 engineering and mathematics programming; and

21 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
22 history reaches into the community to provide a depth of
23 knowledge to the public through informative exhibits, programs
24 and web-based resources; and

25 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and

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1 history provides a robust website, hosts approximately
2 seventy-five thousand visitors annually and maintains a strong,
3 enduring partnership with Sandia national laboratories as well
4 as many other laboratories, corporations, universities and
5 organizations; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim Walther's impact as an educator is
7 unparalleled in terms of both quality and reach, welcoming
8 school-aged children into programs and learning initiatives to
9 become better informed on science, technology, engineering,
10 mathematics and nuclear science; and

11 WHEREAS, under Jim Walther's direction, the museum's
12 education department welcomes students with program initiatives
13 and project atom, a free after-school program for high school
14 students who want to expand their knowledge of nuclear science;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, through museum programming, Jim Walther has
17 encouraged students to look to their futures in nuclear and
18 science, technology, engineering and mathematics programming;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the annual nuclear science week, Jim Walther's
21 vision, celebrates the field of nuclear science and is a
22 weeklong celebration held during the third week in October that
23 invites educators, students and employers from different
24 communities to "get to know nuclear"; and

25 WHEREAS, the impact of Jim Walther's initiative was

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1 recognized in 2017 by United States secretary of energy Rick
2 Perry, and nuclear science week attracted additional attention
3 from white house leadership through endorsement videos from Dr.
4 Rita Baranwal, former United States assistant secretary for the
5 office of nuclear energy, in 2020 and by United States
6 secretary of energy Jennifer Granholm in 2021; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Walther also has a strong working
8 relationship with Jim Sanborn, the sculptor behind the renowned
9 exhibits "Atomic Time" and "Critical Assembly"; and

10 WHEREAS, Jim Walther's tireless work has resulted in a
11 nuclear education infrastructure that will continue furthering
12 public understanding of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology
13 for decades to come;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recognition be
16 extended to Jim Walther for his contributions to the
17 transformation of nuclear education and declaring February 7,
18 2023 "Jim Walther Day" in the house of representatives; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to Jim Walther and the national museum of nuclear
21 science and history.