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HOUSE MEMORIAL 7

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
John Heaton

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE
THE CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK WITH A POSTAGE STAMP.

WHEREAS, Carlsbad Caverns national park was first
designated a national monument in 1923, redesignated a
national park in 1930 and designated a world heritage site in
1995; and

WHEREAS, the park was established to preserve Carlsbad
Caverns and numerous other caves within a permian-age fossil
reef and contains eighty-three separate caves, including the
nation's third longest cave and deepest limestone cave, one
thousand five hundred ninety-seven feet deep; and

WHEREAS, the caverns are the result of the creation of a
four-hundred-mile-long reef in an inland sea that covered the
region more than two hundred fifty million years ago; and

WHEREAS, cracks developed in the reef as it grew

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 seaward, and with eventual evaporation of the sea, the reef
2 was buried under deposits of salts and gypsum; and

3 WHEREAS, a few million years ago, uplift and erosion of
4 the area uncovered the buried rock reef, rainwater seeped
5 down into the cracks in the reef, and by slowly dissolving
6 the limestone, began the process that over time formed large
7 underground chambers; and

8 WHEREAS, simultaneously, hydrogen sulfide gas migrated
9 upward from vast oil and gas deposits beneath the ancient
10 reef, forming sulfuric acid, which corroded the formation and
11 created huge passageways; and

12 WHEREAS, the exposed reef became part of the Guadalupe
13 mountains, and the underground chambers became the wonder of
14 Carlsbad Caverns, a unique monument to nature's magical and
15 enchanting power;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
18 States postal service be requested to commemorate the
19 Carlsbad Caverns national park with a postage stamp; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the postmaster general.