

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO
DESIGNATE THE NEXT VIRGINIA-CLASS NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK
SUBMARINE THE USS NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, soldiers of the union army turned back the
confederate army's rapid march west toward gold mines that
would have added desperately needed funds to the south's
coffers at the battle of Glorieta pass in New Mexico, turning
the tide in favor of the union's effort; and

WHEREAS, some three hundred fifty-eight New Mexicans
made up the largest contingent to serve in the volunteer
rough riders military unit under the command of Theodore
Roosevelt in the bloodiest fighting of the Spanish-American
War liberating Cuba and seizing control of Guam, Puerto Rico
and the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers of New Mexico protected

1 vital military information by transmitting coded messages in
2 their native, unwritten language that enemy listeners could
3 not crack during World War II, turning the tide in the
4 Pacific theater; and

5 WHEREAS, some one thousand eight hundred New Mexicans in
6 the 200th and 515th coast artillery courageously fought enemy
7 bombers in the Philippines during World War II only to be
8 captured and forced to march up the Bataan peninsula for ten
9 days with no food and little water, with less than nine
10 hundred returning home after surviving the Bataan death
11 march; and

12 WHEREAS, the scientists of Los Alamos dedicated
13 themselves to ending World War II by developing and testing
14 the atomic bomb in the desert lands of New Mexico, which
15 brought an immediate end to the war; and

16 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico have continued to
17 support the nation's military engagements across the globe
18 through the service of its men and women at Cannon air force
19 base, Holloman air force base, Kirtland air force base and
20 White Sands missile range; and

21 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has a long history of
22 contributing to the defense of the United States through the
23 service of its men and women in combat and the development of
24 military technologies; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a leader in developing twenty-
first century technologies, and much of the work at the
department of energy laboratories in Los Alamos and

underscored material = new
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1 Albuquerque continues to keep this country strong and free;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, naming the next Virginia-class nuclear powered
4 attack submarine the USS New Mexico would confirm New
5 Mexico's place on the United States map and focus attention
6 on the contributions the state makes to national defense; and

7 WHEREAS, the citizens of Albuquerque and Santa Fe have
8 proven themselves to be highly supportive of their respective
9 namesake submarines and their crews, the USS Albuquerque for
10 the past eighteen years and the USS Santa Fe for the past
11 seven years; and

12 WHEREAS, many submariners of New Mexico gave their lives
13 in the Pacific theater during World War II and remain on
14 eternal patrol, and many other New Mexico submariners have
15 served with pride and honor in the United States naval
16 submarine force, which this year celebrates its one hundredth
17 anniversary; and

18 WHEREAS, the naming of the USS New Mexico would honor
19 the thousands of military personnel this state has produced
20 for the armed forces, and in the same spirit that the state's
21 namesake battleship once honored those who served;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States secretary of the
24 navy be requested to designate the next Virginia-class
25 nuclear powered attack submarine the USS New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the United States secretary of the navy and

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1 the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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