

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ASKING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO URGE
3 PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF
4 FREEDOM TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIGUEL ENCINIAS FOR HIS
5 MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES.

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7 WHEREAS, Miguel Encinias was born and raised in Las
8 Vegas, New Mexico, the youngest of sixteen children; and

9 WHEREAS, he joined the New Mexico national guard in
10 1939, between his junior and senior year in high school, when
11 he was only sixteen years old; and

12 WHEREAS, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when
13 President Roosevelt issued an urgent call for pilots, Miguel
14 applied to the cadet academy for flight training and graduated
15 as an air force pilot and officer in 1943; and

16 WHEREAS, he flew sixty-nine missions in North Africa,
17 Sicily and Corsica, and he was shot down, wounded and captured
18 by the German army; and

19 WHEREAS, he spent fifteen months in a German prison camp
20 on the Baltic coast and was released upon the liberation of
21 Europe by the allies; and

22 WHEREAS, following the war, he enrolled in Georgetown
23 university's school of foreign services, and after graduating
24 from Georgetown, he went to France to study, where he was
25 awarded the equivalent of a master's degree in political

1 science; and

2 WHEREAS, at the onset of the Korean Conflict, Miguel
3 Encinias requested active duty status with the United States
4 air force, and he flew over one hundred missions during that
5 war; and

6 WHEREAS, on his sixty-fifth mission, he was shot down,
7 rescued by helicopter, hospitalized and treated for his
8 wounds; and

9 WHEREAS, upon recovery and convalescence, he returned to
10 his squadron and continued to fly missions until the end of
11 the war; and

12 WHEREAS, following the Korean Conflict, Miguel was
13 selected to be the director of a project that trained pilots
14 from other countries to be fighter pilots and, subsequently,
15 he became a French teacher at the United States air force
16 academy; and

17 WHEREAS, during the Vietnam Conflict, he once again
18 volunteered for active duty and flew more than sixty combat
19 missions while also serving as a French advisor in that
20 country; and

21 WHEREAS, toward the end of his military career, Miguel
22 Encinias was honored, receiving two commendations for his
23 accomplishments, one by the chief of staff of the air force
24 and the other by the chief of the military assistance
25 advisory group in Spain; and

1 WHEREAS, after retiring from the military as a
2 lieutenant colonel, he enrolled in the university of New
3 Mexico, from which he was awarded a doctor of philosophy
4 degree in Spanish and Latin American literature and
5 education; and

6 WHEREAS, he pursued a second career as a university
7 professor, teaching French and Spanish at western New Mexico
8 university, and he was the director of bilingual programs for
9 the Albuquerque public schools; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1993, he was appointed by President Bill
11 Clinton to be a member of the World War II advisory board,
12 and he served on that board for seven years; and

13 WHEREAS, during his illustrious military career, Miguel
14 was recognized and honored with three distinguished flying
15 crosses, two purple hearts and fourteen air medals; and

16 WHEREAS, Miguel Encinias is the only Hispanic in the
17 United States, and one of only five pilots, to have flown
18 combat missions in three wars: World War II, the Korean
19 Conflict and the Vietnam Conflict; and

20 WHEREAS, the presidential medal of freedom is the
21 nation's highest civilian award, recognizing exceptional
22 meritorious service, both in war and in peacetime; and

23 WHEREAS, Miguel Encinias has distinguished himself by a
24 lifetime of service to his country, and he deserves
25 consideration for the nation's highest civilian award;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
3 delegation be requested to urge President Barack Obama to
4 award the presidential medal of freedom to Lieutenant Colonel
5 Miguel Encinias for his meritorious service to the United
6 States; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
9 delegation. _____

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