

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING BOBBIE L. NOBLES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO
3 HIS COMMUNITY, NEW MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.
4

5 WHEREAS, Bobbie L. Nobles was born on September 13, 1932
6 in Bernalillo, New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles was one of fourteen children in his
8 family; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1941, Mr. Nobles' family left Bernalillo to
10 become itinerant farm workers, permanently settling in
11 California, where Bobbie graduated from high school in 1959;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles joined the United States air force
14 in 1951, becoming a jet pilot, and in 1974, he retired as a
15 lieutenant colonel at Kirtland air force base in Albuquerque;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles was a decorated United States air
18 force pilot, serving a second combat tour in Vietnam as an
19 advisor to the Vietnam air force, and he became lasting
20 friends with his Vietnamese counterparts; and

21 WHEREAS, after the fall of Saigon, Mr. Nobles became
22 concerned about the welfare of his friends, knowing the
23 danger and risk they would endure under the new regime; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles retired and became actively involved
25 in Albuquerque's southeast Asian refugee resettlement program

1 through Catholic charities; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles kept track of Asian military pilots
3 and family members and provided them with support to evade
4 and exit their countries and to enroll in American refugee
5 programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles' efforts brought American freedom,
7 safety and citizenship to more than one hundred Asian
8 families whom he had worked with in the United States air
9 force before the United States' withdrawal from Laos,
10 Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles has been recognized with several
12 civic awards for his work with the Asian American community;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles co-founded the Asian American
15 association of New Mexico, was greatly appreciated among the
16 Asian community for his tireless and generous work and was
17 affectionately called "Mr. Bobbie"; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles was an honored veteran who served
19 during times of war, was a recognized leader in the Asian
20 American community and Albuquerque's international district
21 for demonstrating kindness, humanity and service to others;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles died on January 2, 2017; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles is survived by his son, David G.
25 Nobles, and David's wife, Sherry; six of his fourteen

1 siblings, Catherine Mason, Jean (Gene) Nobles, Nellie Jo
2 Casey, Tommy Nobles, Helen Zeiler and Jerry Nobles; and
3 numerous nieces and nephews;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
6 Bobbie L. Nobles and that it honor a debt of gratitude to Mr.
7 Nobles for his many years of selfless service, for his
8 sacrifices to fight for the freedom that all Americans enjoy
9 today, for his actions to share the promise of freedom with
10 others in peril and for his significant humanitarian service
11 to New Mexico; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the family of Bobbie L. Nobles.

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