

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 128

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING MARCH 16, 2017 "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY" IN THE SENATE AND  
12 HONORING NEW MEXICO HEROES.

13  
14 WHEREAS, New Mexicans recognize the sacrifices that  
15 military men and women make to preserve the freedoms that  
16 individuals have today; and

17 WHEREAS, in honor of those sacrifices, the medal of honor  
18 was created during the American Civil War as the highest  
19 military decoration presented by the United States government  
20 to a member of the armed forces; and

21 WHEREAS, to qualify for the medal of honor, the recipient  
22 must have engaged in distinguished actions at the risk of the  
23 recipient's own life, above and beyond the call of duty,  
24 against an enemy of the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, recipients of the medal of honor are categorized

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1 by the state in which they enlisted or served; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico is credited with nine medal of honor  
3 recipients; and

4 WHEREAS, April 6, 2017 is the fiftieth anniversary of  
5 United States army Specialist Fourth Class Daniel D. Fernandez  
6 being awarded the medal of honor posthumously on April 6, 1967  
7 by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

8 WHEREAS, Specialist Fernandez was a native New Mexican  
9 from Valencia county who served in the United States army; and

10 WHEREAS, on February 18, 1966, in Hau Nghia province,  
11 Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Fernandez showed great valor  
12 when he threw himself on an exploding grenade while shielding  
13 four soldiers attending to a wounded officer nearby, thereby  
14 saving their lives at the sacrifice of his own; and

15 WHEREAS, United States army Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry,  
16 a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, received the medal of honor  
17 on July 12, 2011 for his courageous actions in Afghanistan  
18 during the war on terror; and

19 WHEREAS, United States army Staff Sergeant Franklin D.  
20 Miller of Albuquerque, New Mexico, saw action during the  
21 Vietnam War and received the medal of honor on June 15, 1971;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, United States army Corporal Hiroshi Miyamura, a  
24 Gallup native, saw action during the Korean War and received  
25 the medal of honor on November 4, 1953; and

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1           WHEREAS, United States army Captain Robert S. Scott  
2           enlisted in Santa Fe, New Mexico, during World War II and was  
3           recognized for his actions on Okinawa, Japan, and received the  
4           medal of honor on October 14, 1944; and

5           WHEREAS, United States army Private First Class Alejandro  
6           R. Ruiz, who was born in Loving, New Mexico, received the medal  
7           of honor on June 14, 1946 for his heroic conduct during World  
8           War II; and

9           WHEREAS, United States marine Lieutenant Alexander  
10          Bonnyman, Jr., was awarded the medal of honor on October 28,  
11          1946 for his valor during World War II; and

12          WHEREAS, during the Indian campaigns, calvary Private Eben  
13          Stanley was awarded the medal of honor for his gallantry in  
14          action in Arizona on March 25 and March 27, 1873, and cavalry  
15          First Sergeant Francis Oliver received the medal of honor for  
16          his gallantry in battle on October 20, 1869; and

17          WHEREAS, the following seven medal of honor recipients  
18          were born in New Mexico but either moved to, or enlisted in the  
19          military service from, another state, to which their award was  
20          credited: United States army Private Joe P. Martinez; United  
21          States army Private Harold H. Moon, Jr.; United States army  
22          Private First Class Jose F. Valdez; United States army air  
23          forces Brigadier General Kenneth N. Walker; United States army  
24          Staff Sergeant Delbert O. Jennings; United States army Sergeant  
25          First Class Louis R. Rocco; and United States marine Lance

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1 Corporal Kenneth L. Worley; and

2 WHEREAS, it is incumbent on New Mexicans of all ages to  
3 recognize how the life, service and honorable sacrifices of  
4 these bravest of men contribute to the rich and proud history  
5 of New Mexico;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
7 OF NEW MEXICO that March 16, 2017 be declared "Medal of Honor  
8 Day" in the senate; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the adjutant general of the department of  
11 military affairs, the national honor society at Valencia high  
12 school and the family of Daniel D. Fernandez.