

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING DIANNE MILLER HAMILTON AND RECOGNIZING HER  
3 OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Dianne Miller Hamilton, who served as a  
6 Republican state representative for district 38, died at her  
7 home in Tijeras on November 9, 2021; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton served nine terms, from  
9 1998 to 2016, representing District 38, which includes Grant,  
10 Sierra and Hidalgo counties; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was born in Kansas  
12 City, Missouri, on January 31, 1934; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton attended grade school  
14 and high school in Kansas City and graduated from the  
15 university of Kansas in 1955 with a degree in speech  
16 communication; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton taught in Kansas City  
18 public schools and pursued a broadcasting career until she  
19 married her husband of sixty years, United States marine  
20 corps officer John A. Hamilton, in December 1956; and

21 WHEREAS, for the next twenty years, Representative  
22 Hamilton and their four children, Drew, Jared, Lynn and  
23 Merritt, followed her husband's career in the military until  
24 John retired from the United States marine corps in 1974 when  
25 the family moved to Silver City; and

1           WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was a well-known radio  
2 host in Silver City, broadcasting two daily radio programs on  
3 KSIL from 1976 to 1999; and

4           WHEREAS, during her legislative career, Representative  
5 Hamilton served on the following standing committees:  
6 consumer and public affairs; education; government, elections  
7 and Indian affairs; and transportation and public works; and

8           WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton also served on the  
9 following interim committees: economic and rural development  
10 and telecommunications; economic and rural development;  
11 legislative ethics; legislative education study and military  
12 and veterans' affairs; and

13           WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was a key figure in  
14 early efforts to establish statewide voter identification and  
15 was known as an advocate for veterans and ranchers; and

16           WHEREAS, people fondly recall that Representative  
17 Hamilton appreciated the legislative staff members who  
18 support the legislature and the public; and

19           WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was a popular  
20 legislator who was known to "hug her way through the  
21 capitol"; and

22           WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton has also been lauded as  
23 a stateswoman who paved the way for other female legislators;  
24 and

25           WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton was an active volunteer

1 and leader in Silver City where she helped found the first  
2 shelter for victims of domestic violence; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton served on the board of  
4 regents at western New Mexico university from 1990 to 1998,  
5 serving as president of the board for the last four years of  
6 her term; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton held leadership roles  
8 in many community organizations, including the Grant county  
9 arts council, the Gila regional medical center foundation,  
10 the board of Hidalgo medical services and the Silver City  
11 library board; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton received the governor's  
13 award for outstanding New Mexico woman in 1994 and was named  
14 the Silver City/Grant county citizen of the year in 1995; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2000, Representative Hamilton received the  
16 New Mexico district attorneys' award for outstanding  
17 representative of the year and was awarded an honorary  
18 doctorate of humanities from western New Mexico university in  
19 2006; and

20 WHEREAS, in November 2009, the Dianne Miller Hamilton  
21 military museum celebrated its grand opening in Truth or  
22 Consequences; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Hamilton is survived by her  
24 children, John Andrew "Drew" Hamilton and Tricia, Jared  
25 Miller Hamilton and Mike, Lynn Hamilton O'Connell and Bob,

1 and Merritt Hamilton Allen; her granddaughters, Blythe  
2 Hamilton and Joan Marie O'Connell; and three generations of  
3 Armstrongs led by Bobbi and Rich Armstrong; and

4 WHEREAS, the state honored Representative Hamilton on  
5 November 22, 2021 when she laid in state in the state capitol  
6 rotunda; and

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Dianne Miller  
9 Hamilton be honored and recognized for her public service and  
10 dedication to the residents of New Mexico and her strong  
11 advocacy for those whose voices are often not heard; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to John Andrew "Drew" Hamilton, Jared Miller  
14 Hamilton, Lynn Hamilton O'Connell and Merritt Hamilton Allen. =

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