

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED  
3 STATES MADE BY THE MEXICAN TWO-HUNDRED-FIRST SQUADRON DURING  
4 WORLD WAR II.

5  
6 WHEREAS, the two-hundred-first squadron was formed by  
7 order of Mexican President Manuel Avila Camacho on July 10,  
8 1944, after an agreement was reached with United States  
9 President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

10 WHEREAS, this all-volunteer contingent of three hundred  
11 fifty Mexican fighter pilots and ground personnel was  
12 affectionately known as "the white noses" by United States  
13 army ground fighting forces, but they called themselves the  
14 "Aztec eagles"; and

15 WHEREAS, the two-hundred-first squadron, officially  
16 attached to the fifty-eighth fighter group of the United  
17 States army air forces, served courageously in the liberation  
18 of the Philippines during World War II; and

19 WHEREAS, the pilots received special training in air and  
20 combat tactics that included fighter formation, low-altitude  
21 gunnery and night flying; and

22 WHEREAS, the Aztec eagles and their families traveled  
23 thousands of miles for training, facing discrimination and  
24 hostile treatment in the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, the squadron left for the Philippines by ship

1 on March 27, 1945, traveling mostly at night and taking many  
2 evasive precautions during the day because of the Axis'  
3 submarine threats off the coast of California, and arrived in  
4 the Philippines thirty days later; and

5 WHEREAS, these Mexican pilots flew Republic P-47D-30-RA  
6 thunderbolt single-seat fighter aircraft and carried out two  
7 thousand hours of combat flying; and

8 WHEREAS, the fighter planes had double insignias, one  
9 for Mexico and one for the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, upon arrival, the men of the two-hundred-first  
11 squadron were looked upon with disdain and distrust by the  
12 American men of the fifty-eighth fighter group; and

13 WHEREAS, those sentiments soon ended as American pilots  
14 recognized the bravery and ferocity of the Aztec eagles when  
15 the men of the two-hundred-first squadron executed dangerous  
16 dive-bomb runs from high altitudes; and

17 WHEREAS, these bold pilots faced such grueling missions  
18 that they often needed to be pried out of their cockpits and  
19 helped off the tarmac; and

20 WHEREAS, the two-hundred-first squadron remained side by  
21 side with American troops through the end of World War II;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, on November 18, 1945, the men returned to  
24 Mexico City and were welcomed back with the joyous cheers of  
25 the city's residents; and

