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HOUSE MEMORIAL 37

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the two-hundred-first squadron, officially
attached to the fifty-eighth fighter group of the United States

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1 army air forces, served courageously in the liberation of the
2 Philippines during World War II; and

3 WHEREAS, the pilots received special training in air and
4 combat tactics that included fighter formation, low-altitude
5 gunnery and night flying; and

6 WHEREAS, the Aztec eagles and their families traveled
7 thousands of miles for training, facing discrimination and
8 hostile treatment in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the squadron left for the Philippines by ship on
10 March 27, 1945, traveling mostly at night and taking many
11 evasive precautions during the day because of the Axis'
12 submarine threats off the coast of California, and arrived in
13 the Philippines thirty days later; and

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

17 WHEREAS, the fighter planes had double insignias, one for
18 Mexico and one for the United States; and

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

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

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, the two-hundred-first squadron remains the only
10 military unit in Mexico's history to engage in combat outside
11 of its national borders; and

12 WHEREAS, despite losing seven pilots, the service of the
13 Aztec eagles helped improve relations between the United States
14 and Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, a tremendous debt of gratitude is owed by
16 residents of the United States to this squadron of Mexican men
17 who bravely fought for the United States during World War II
18 against the Japanese;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Mexican
21 two-hundred-first squadron be recognized and honored for its
22 contributions fighting for the United States during World War
23 II; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
25 delegation be encouraged to appeal to the administration of

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1 President Joe Biden to honor the contributions of the Mexican
2 two-hundred-first squadron nationally; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the board chair of the New Mexico military
5 museum foundation, the secretary of cultural affairs, the New
6 Mexico congressional delegation and the consul of the consulate
7 of Mexico in Albuquerque.

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