

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 7, 2023 "JIM WALTHER DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, as the executive director of the national
6 museum of nuclear science and history in Albuquerque, Jim
7 Walther has educated and inspired the global community in
8 furthering public education and understanding of the peaceful
9 applications of nuclear technology for more than a quarter of
10 a century; and

11 WHEREAS, Jim Walther has served as the director of the
12 national museum of nuclear science and history since
13 relocating to Albuquerque in 1996; and

14 WHEREAS, Jim Walther received his bachelor of arts
15 degree in visual arts from the West Virginia university
16 school of arts and has worked in the museum business for
17 thirty-nine years; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Walther previously served as the vice
19 president of programs and exhibits at the museum of discovery
20 and science in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as well as the
21 director of exhibits at Cumberland science museum and
22 Grassmere wildlife park in Nashville, Tennessee; and

23 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
24 history, the largest museum of its type in the world, is the
25 nation's only congressionally chartered museum in the field

1 of nuclear history and science, a Smithsonian-affiliate
2 museum and a member of the association of science and
3 technology centers; and

4 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
5 history was founded in 1969, and under Jim Walther's
6 leadership has expanded significantly, including moving into
7 a larger facility, initiating nuclear science week in 2009
8 and overseeing new web-based content and partnerships to
9 expand the museum's reach worldwide; and

10 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
11 history leads New Mexico efforts in science, technology,
12 engineering and mathematics programming; and

13 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
14 history reaches into the community to provide a depth of
15 knowledge to the public through informative exhibits,
16 programs and web-based resources; and

17 WHEREAS, the national museum of nuclear science and
18 history provides a robust website, hosts approximately
19 seventy-five thousand visitors annually and maintains a
20 strong, enduring partnership with Sandia national
21 laboratories as well as many other laboratories,
22 corporations, universities and organizations; and

23 WHEREAS, Jim Walther's impact as an educator is
24 unparalleled in terms of both quality and reach, welcoming
25 school-aged children into programs and learning initiatives

1 to become better informed on science, technology,
2 engineering, mathematics and nuclear science; and

3 WHEREAS, under Jim Walther's direction, the museum's
4 education department welcomes students with program
5 initiatives and project atom, a free after-school program for
6 high school students who want to expand their knowledge of
7 nuclear science; and

8 WHEREAS, through museum programming, Jim Walther has
9 encouraged students to look to their futures in nuclear and
10 science, technology, engineering and mathematics programming;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the annual nuclear science week, Jim Walther's
13 vision, celebrates the field of nuclear science and is a
14 weeklong celebration held during the third week in October
15 that invites educators, students and employers from different
16 communities to "get to know nuclear"; and

17 WHEREAS, the impact of Jim Walther's initiative was
18 recognized in 2017 by United States secretary of energy Rick
19 Perry, and nuclear science week attracted additional
20 attention from white house leadership through endorsement
21 videos from Dr. Rita Baranwal, former United States assistant
22 secretary for the office of nuclear energy, in 2020 and by
23 United States secretary of energy Jennifer Granholm in 2021;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Jim Walther also has a strong working

1 relationship with Jim Sanborn, the sculptor behind the
2 renowned exhibits "Atomic Time" and "Critical Assembly"; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim Walther's tireless work has resulted in a
4 nuclear education infrastructure that will continue
5 furthering public understanding of the peaceful uses of
6 nuclear technology for decades to come;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recognition
9 be extended to Jim Walther for his contributions to the
10 transformation of nuclear education and declaring February 7,
11 2023 "Jim Walther Day" in the house of representatives; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to Jim Walther and the national museum of nuclear
14 science and history. _____

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