

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT HIROSHI H. MIYAMURA FOR HIS
3 PATRIOTISM AND A LIFE LIVED WITH HONOR.

4
5 WHEREAS, Gallup native Hiroshi H. Miyamura, a hero
6 remembered for his bravery, self-sacrifice, humility, love of
7 God, love of family and love of country, died on November 29,
8 2022; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was born on October 6, 1925 in
10 Gallup, New Mexico, to Yaichi Miyamura and Tori Matsukawa;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, his parents, who were Japanese immigrants,
13 owned and managed a twenty-four-hour diner; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was nicknamed "Hershey" because
15 one of his teachers could not pronounce his name correctly;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, when the United States entered World War II,
18 Mr. Miyamura joined the United States army in January 1945;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura volunteered to be part of the
21 all-Nisei one hundredth battalion as a member of the famed
22 four-hundred-forty-second regimental combat team, otherwise
23 known as the "purple heart battalion"; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was discharged from the
25 United States army shortly after Japan surrendered and later

1 enlisted in the United States army reserve; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was recalled to active duty with
3 the start of the Korean conflict and arrived in Korea in
4 December 1950; and

5 WHEREAS, on April 24 and 25, 1951, while serving as a
6 corporal, United States army, company H, second battalion,
7 seventh infantry regiment, third infantry division, a night
8 attack was carried out by the Chinese; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura, aware of the imminent danger,
10 engaged in close hand-to-hand combat against the enemy,
11 returned to his position and administered first aid to the
12 wounded; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura saw that his squad could not hold
14 out much longer and ordered his men to retreat while he
15 stayed behind until his machine gun was rendered inoperative
16 and he was severely wounded; and

17 WHEREAS, despite his wounds, Mr. Miyamura killed fifty
18 enemy soldiers as he continued to repel the attack until his
19 position was overrun; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was captured by the North Koreans
21 on April 25, 1951, and he and other prisoners were forced to
22 march three hundred miles over five weeks with very little
23 food; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was held prisoner for twenty-eight
25 months, followed by his release on August 20, 1953; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was awarded the medal of honor for
2 distinguishing himself by conspicuous gallantry and
3 intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in courageous
4 actions on April 24 and 25, 1951 against the enemy; and

5 WHEREAS, however, his medal of honor designation was
6 classified as top secret at the time it was awarded because
7 he was still a prisoner of war, and there was a concern that
8 the enemy would retaliate against Mr. Miyamura if it was
9 known that his actions were being celebrated; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was released in August 1953, and
11 he returned to the United States, where the medal of honor
12 was presented to him by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on
13 October 27, 1953; and

14 WHEREAS, during his military service, Mr. Miyamura also
15 received the meritorious service medal and the purple heart;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, upon returning to Gallup after his discharge
18 from the United States army, Mr. Miyamura married Tsureko
19 "Terry" Tsuchimori and established a career as an auto
20 mechanic and service station owner; and

21 WHEREAS, during his life, Mr. Miyamura traveled the
22 country sharing his remarkable story of service and survival
23 with countless military, veterans' and school groups; and

24 WHEREAS, in September 2010, Miyamura high school in
25 Gallup was officially dedicated in his honor; and

1 WHEREAS, the Miyamura overpass at an interchange on
2 interstate forty in Gallup is named in his honor; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2014, in recognition of his activities
4 involving youth in his community, Mr. Miyamura received the
5 director's community leadership award from the Albuquerque
6 division of the federal bureau of investigation; and

7 WHEREAS, also in 2014, Mr. Miyamura was named grand
8 marshal of the seventy-fifth annual Nisei week parade; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2019, Mr. Miyamura served as the grand
10 marshal in the one hundredth anniversary veterans day parade
11 in New York City; and

12 WHEREAS, in November 2022, just weeks before his
13 passing, Mr. Miyamura was named to the national board of the
14 state funerals for war veterans organization, whose mission
15 is to "convince Congress to pass legislation to grant a state
16 funeral for the last medal of honor recipients from the
17 Korean and Vietnam wars, as a final salute to all the men and
18 women who served"; and

19 WHEREAS, at the time of his death at age ninety-seven,
20 Mr. Miyamura was one of the last two surviving medal of honor
21 recipients from the Korean conflict; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was buried with full military
23 honors in Gallup; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was married to his wife, Terry,
25 for sixty-six years, until her death in 2014; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura is survived by his sons,
2 Mike Miyamura and Marianne and Pat Miyamura and Jill; his
3 daughter, Kelly Hildahl and Clay; his granddaughters,
4 Megan Miyamura, Marisa Regan and Joe and Madison Miyamura;
5 his grandson, Ian Miyamura; his great-grandchildren,
6 Marshall Miyamura, Thomas Regan, Emi Regan, Michael Regan and
7 Lori Regan; and his sisters, Michiko Yoshida, Suzi Tashiro
8 and Shige Sasaki;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Hiroshi H. Miyamura, a great
11 military hero, patriot, citizen and friend, be recognized and
12 honored for his stellar life led by example; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the family of Hiroshi M. Miyamura. _____

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