

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 9

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 George K. Muñoz

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10 A MEMORIAL

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

13
14 WHEREAS, Gallup native Hiroshi H. Miyamura, a hero
15 remembered for his bravery, self-sacrifice, humility, love of
16 God, love of family and love of country, died on November 29,
17 2022; and

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

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

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

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

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

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was discharged from the United
6 States army shortly after Japan surrendered and later enlisted
7 in the United States army reserve; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was recalled to active duty with the
9 start of the Korean conflict and arrived in Korea in December
10 1950; and

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

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura, aware of the imminent danger,
16 engaged in close hand-to-hand combat against the enemy,
17 returned to his position and administered first aid to the
18 wounded; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was released in August 1953, and he
16 returned to the United States, where the medal of honor was
17 presented to him by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on October
18 27, 1953; and

19 WHEREAS, during his military service, Mr. Miyamura also
20 received the meritorious service medal and the purple heart;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, upon returning to Gallup after his discharge from
23 the United States army, Mr. Miyamura married Tsuroko "Terry"
24 Tsuchimori and established a career as an auto mechanic and
25 service station owner; and

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

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

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

8 WHEREAS, in 2014, in recognition of his activities
9 involving youth in his community, Mr. Miyamura received the
10 director's community leadership award from the Albuquerque
11 division of the federal bureau of investigation; and

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

14 WHEREAS, in 2019, Mr. Miyamura served as the grand marshal
15 in the one hundredth anniversary veterans day parade in New
16 York City; and

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

24 WHEREAS, at the time of his death at age ninety-seven, Mr.
25 Miyamura was one of the last two surviving medal of honor

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1 recipients from the Korean conflict; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Miyamura was buried with full military honors
3 in Gallup; and

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

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

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the family of Hiroshi M. Miyamura.