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SENATE MEMORIAL 15

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Phillip A. Griego

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AT THE PASSING OF FORMER SENATOR GEORGE
T. KORAN.

WHEREAS, George T. "The Blade" Koran died on January 11,
1999; and

WHEREAS, he served in the state senate after winning
election from district 39 in 1966; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, he distinguished himself by
flying with the flying tigers in China under the command of
Major General Claire Chennault and, after being shot down by
the Japanese, and told by a young Ho Chi Minh that the
Japanese had offered fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) as a
reward for his capture, he nevertheless returned to fly with
the American volunteer group; and

WHEREAS, after the war, he came to New Mexico where he

underscored material = new
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1 started the Koran construction company, building the republic
2 square shopping center and San Pedro village apartments, among
3 many other projects; and

4 WHEREAS, he helped found the state's air national guard
5 and founded the republic national bank; and

6 WHEREAS, he served on the board of the Santa Fe opera and
7 was the chair of the independent council of colleges and
8 universities of New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, he is survived by his children, George, Jr.,
10 Donald, Steven, Kristen and Cathryn, eight grandchildren and
11 two nieces;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that condolences be expressed to the family and
14 friends of George T. Koran, a distinguished, loving and
15 devoted New Mexican.