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SENATE MEMORIAL 12

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

William H. Payne

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE SUBMARINE USS *ALBUQUERQUE* AND HER THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AND ITS NAVY.

WHEREAS, the USS *Albuquerque* (SSN-706) is a Los Angeles-class, nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine named after the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, during her service life, the USS *Albuquerque* steamed well over one-half million miles, made well over one thousand dives, made goodwill port calls in eighteen countries and completed over fifteen overseas deployments, ranging from three to seven months in duration, from the north Atlantic to the Mediterranean to the Arabian sea to the west Pacific; and

WHEREAS, since commissioning on May 21, 1983, a total of thirteen commanding officers guided the USS *Albuquerque* through

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1 her thirty-three years of active duty; and

2 WHEREAS, the USS *Albuquerque* is known as the "Sure Shooter
3 of the Submarine Force", having established the best hit rate
4 by firing ten tomahawk missiles at targets in Serb-controlled
5 Yugoslavia in May 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, the USS *Albuquerque* is one of the very first
7 nuclear-powered attack submarines to earn the distinction of
8 combat veteran; and

9 WHEREAS, the submarine has brought great pride to the city
10 of Albuquerque through her participation in operation Iraqi
11 freedom and her distinguished service in the global war on
12 terrorism; and

13 WHEREAS, the USS *Albuquerque* has completed several highly
14 classified missions that not all United States submarines can
15 perform; and

16 WHEREAS, the USS *Albuquerque* has won four annual battle
17 efficiency "E" awards for the most proficient submarine crew in
18 her squadron, plus three meritorious unit commendations and a
19 navy unit commendation in recognition of sustained superior
20 technical performance and continual combat readiness; and

21 WHEREAS, her 2001-2003 refueling cycle was the fastest
22 ever at twenty months and the least expensive, saving nearly
23 twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), both while setting new
24 safety and training records, followed by the best post-overhaul
25 performance and the most successful ever combat systems

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1 modernization; and

2 WHEREAS, during an around-the-world deployment in August
3 2009 that included changing her home port from Groton,
4 Connecticut, to San Diego, California, the USS *Albuquerque*
5 became the submarine that completed the navy's split of
6 submarine force assets, sixty percent in the Pacific, forty
7 percent in the Atlantic; and

8 WHEREAS, the submarine has enjoyed an active,
9 long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship with its
10 namesake city, with continuous support for the officers and
11 crew by the greater Albuquerque chamber of commerce and the
12 navy league New Mexico council; and

13 WHEREAS, a community initiative has begun to acquire the
14 submarine sail as the centerpiece for a planned USS *Albuquerque*
15 memorial after decommissioning, scheduled for late 2015;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
17 OF NEW MEXICO that sincere gratitude be expressed to the
18 hundreds of submariners who have served with pride and
19 distinction aboard the USS *Albuquerque* during the past
20 thirty-three years; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the commanding officer of the USS *Albuquerque*.