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SENATE MEMORIAL 18

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan restored its independence in October 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union, proclaiming itself the heir to the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which was established in 1918 and was the first secular democratic republic in the Turkic and Muslim world and among the first nation-states granting the right to vote to women; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991 and to establish full-fledged diplomatic relations with it in 1992; and

WHEREAS, over the last twenty years, the Republic of

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1 Azerbaijan has consolidated its sovereignty and independence
2 and has become one of the fastest-developing countries in the
3 region and beyond; and

4 WHEREAS, the election of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a
5 non-permanent seat on the United Nations security council in
6 October 2011 is a testament to the growing role and increased
7 capabilities of the Republic of Azerbaijan in maintaining peace
8 and security in the wider Middle East; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States of America, along with the
10 United Nations, recognizes and supports the Republic of
11 Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and

12 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan has an area of thirty-
13 three thousand four hundred forty square miles, which also
14 includes the Karabakh and Nakhchivan regions; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Republic of
16 Azerbaijan have developed a strong strategic partnership based
17 on shared values and interests and a shared vision; and

18 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan is a staunch ally and
19 strategic partner of the United States of America in the
20 critically important Caspian region; and

21 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan was one of the first
22 countries to render unconditional assistance to the United
23 States after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, opening
24 its airspace and airports for use by coalition troops in
25 Afghanistan and sending officers and soldiers to serve

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1 shoulder-to-shoulder with United States troops; and

2 WHEREAS, today around forty percent of all supplies for
3 troops of the United States of America and its allies in
4 Afghanistan are delivered via the Republic of Azerbaijan; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Republic of
6 Azerbaijan continue their successful cooperation in
7 counterterrorism efforts and the nonproliferation of weapons of
8 mass destruction, which is of particular importance, given that
9 the Republic of Azerbaijan is an ally nation located between
10 Iran and Russia; and

11 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan possesses vast oil and
12 gas resources and contributes to the energy security of the
13 United States of America and the European nations, and it is a
14 critical element of the southern gas corridor, which will
15 further enhance diversification of energy supplies used by
16 European allies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United
17 States of America; and

18 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan has a long-standing tradition of
19 peaceful coexistence with various ethnic and religious
20 communities and is one of the few secular countries in the
21 Middle East with a predominately Muslim population that
22 maintains close, friendly ties with Israel; and

23 WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan attaches great
24 importance to expanding its relations in all spheres, including
25 trade, cultural and educational exchanges with the state of New

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1 Mexico, which is the only state in the United States of America
2 to which the Republic of Azerbaijan has appointed an honorary
3 consul, Emmitt Richard "Art" McHaffie, who lives in Santa Fe;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, it is critical for the United States of America
6 to further strengthen the relations with its allies, such as
7 the Republic of Azerbaijan, to advance common interests
8 currently and in the future;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of a strategic partnership
11 and friendship between the United States of America and the
12 Republic of Azerbaijan be recognized and further enhanced
13 through mutual efforts over the years to come; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the office of the governor, the secretary of
16 cultural affairs and the secretary of economic development.