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SENATE MEMORIAL 85

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 18, 2016 "DANIEL D. FERNANDEZ MEMORIAL DAY"  
IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexicans recognize the sacrifices that New Mexico's military men and women gave of themselves during wartime to preserve the freedoms we have today; and

WHEREAS, Daniel D. Fernandez was a native New Mexican from Valencia county who served in the United States army during the early years of the Vietnam conflict; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 1966, in Hau Nghia province, republic of Vietnam, Daniel showed great valor when he threw himself on an exploding grenade while shielding four soldiers attending to a wounded officer nearby, thereby saving their lives at the sacrifice of his own; and

WHEREAS, Daniel was honored with the highest honor given a

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1 soldier for valor in wartime, the medal of honor, on April 6,  
2 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

3 WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens, especially the  
4 young students of New Mexico just being introduced to Daniel's  
5 story, understand how his life, service and honorable sacrifice  
6 contributed to the rich and proud history of Valencia county  
7 and the state; and

8 WHEREAS, February 18, 2016 is the fiftieth anniversary of  
9 Daniel's death in Vietnam;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
11 OF NEW MEXICO that February 18, 2016 be declared "Daniel D.  
12 Fernandez Memorial Day" in the senate; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the national honor society at Valencia high  
15 school in Los Lunas and to Daniel's surviving brother, Peter  
16 Fernandez of Los Lunas.