

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Bill B. O'Neil

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2015 "TWO EAGLES DAY" IN THE LEGISLATURE.

12
13 WHEREAS, an American pilot and his Russian co-pilot made
14 history in the clouds when they broke records crossing the
15 Pacific ocean together in a helium-filled balloon; and

16 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley of Albuquerque and Leonid Tiukhtyaev
17 of Moscow left the coast of Japan in their gas balloon, dubbed
18 *Two Eagles*, on January 25, 2015 and touched down just off
19 western Mexico six days later on January 31, 2015; and

20 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley tweeted the team's progress as they
21 crossed the Pacific, messaging that *Two Eagles* had landed
22 safely just off the coast of Baja, Mexico, where the two men
23 were picked up by a fishing boat and brought ashore; and

24 WHEREAS, the flight set a record for time in the air of
25 one hundred sixty-one hours and seventeen minutes, surpassing

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1 the previous record of one hundred thirty-seven hours, five
2 minutes and fifty seconds set by *Double Eagle II*; and

3 WHEREAS, the flight also broke the record for distance
4 traveled, covering some six thousand six hundred forty-six
5 miles and breaking a 1981 record of five thousand two hundred
6 eight miles; and

7 WHEREAS, although others have gone farther and for longer
8 periods of time in airborne balloons before, *Two Eagles* differs
9 in that no heat source such as a propane burner was used to
10 keep the balloon aloft; and

11 WHEREAS, only helium gas was used to propel *Two Eagles*;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley, who first soloed at age fourteen,
14 has logged more than six thousand two hundred hours aloft and
15 holds nearly sixty world ballooning records; and

16 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley's many awards include the highest
17 honor bestowed on balloonists worldwide, the Montgolfiere
18 diploma, for exceptional achievement in ballooning; and

19 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley is the first person in history to
20 set records in gas, hot air and hybrid roziere balloons that
21 use both hot air and helium; and

22 WHEREAS, Troy Bradley owns and operates a commercial
23 balloon company and lives with his wife Tami and their two
24 children in Albuquerque; and

25 WHEREAS, Leonid Tiukhtyaev is from Moscow, Russia, and is

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1 a highly accomplished hot air and gas balloon pilot who has
2 been flying since 1996; and

3 WHEREAS, Leonid Tiukhtyaev is the only lighter-than-air
4 pilot in the world to have flown hot air, gas, and roziere
5 airships; and

6 WHEREAS, Leonid Tiukhtyaev is the president of the balloon
7 federation of Russia and has participated in many long-distance
8 gas balloon races in the United States and Europe; and

9 WHEREAS, Leonid Tiukhtyaev is a businessman and is
10 currently the chairman of the board of directors of a major
11 Russian bank;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 3, 2015 be declared "Two
14 Eagles Day" in the legislature; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Troy Bradley and Leonid
16 Tiukhtyaev be recognized for their soaring, adventuresome
17 spirits and record-shattering flight across the Pacific; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to Troy Bradley and Leonid Tiukhtyaev.