

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4290

To direct the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Secretary of the Interior to obtain and place plaques honoring the Downwinder communities of New Mexico, who suffered detrimental health effects as a result of exposure to radioactive fallout.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 2, 2025

Mr. VASQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Secretary of the Interior to obtain and place plaques honoring the Downwinder communities of New Mexico, who suffered detrimental health effects as a result of exposure to radioactive fallout.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Downwinder Com-
5 memoration Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLAQUES HONORING DOWNWINDER COMMUNITIES**
2 **OF NEW MEXICO.**

3 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Downwinder
4 communities of New Mexico suffered generations of detri-
5 mental health effects, including cancer and infertility, as
6 a result of exposure to radioactive fallout following the
7 detonation of the first atomic bomb on July 16, 1945.

8 (b) HONORIFIC PLAQUES.—Not later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of the Army, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Sec-
11 retary of the Interior, in consultation with the heads of
12 such other departments and agencies as the Secretaries
13 determine appropriate, shall jointly obtain three honorific
14 plaques of an appropriate design to commemorate the
15 Downwinder communities of New Mexico.

16 (c) PLACEMENT OF PLAQUES.—Of the three plaques
17 obtained under subsection (b)—

18 (1) the Secretary of the Army shall place one
19 plaque at an appropriate, publicly accessible location
20 at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico;

21 (2) the Secretary of the Air Force shall place
22 one plaque at an appropriate, publicly accessible lo-
23 cation at the Holloman Air Force Base, New Mex-
24 ico; and

1 (3) the Secretary of the Interior shall place one
2 plaque at an appropriate, publicly accessible location
3 at White Sands National Park, New Mexico.

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