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HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

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

INTRODUCED BY

Jim R. Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO GRANT A WAIVER TO THE FRIENDS OF THE PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TO ERECT A MONUMENT AT THE GLORIETA PASS CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD HONORING NEW MEXICO SOLDIERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE.

WHEREAS, in January 1862, confederate General Henry Hopkins Sibley, with a brigade of two thousand six hundred Texans, invaded the territory of New Mexico with the intention of claiming the territory and the west for the confederacy; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers of the Texas confederate forces were victorious in defeating the union forces at the battle of Valverde on February 21, 1862, and shortly afterwards, on February 25, 1862, they captured Socorro, and on March 7, 1862,

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1 Albuquerque was captured; and

2 WHEREAS, the confederate forces captured Santa Fe on March  
3 10, 1862, the capital having been moved earlier by the New  
4 Mexico territorial governor, the honorable Henry Connelly, to  
5 Las Vegas, New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, following these battlefield successes, the Texas  
7 confederate forces planned to conquer Fort Union and then march  
8 to Colorado to take over the mines located there; and

9 WHEREAS, from there, the forces intended to form an  
10 alliance with the Mormons and together take over the gold  
11 fields of California, which would have provided much needed  
12 capital for the confederacy; and

13 WHEREAS, the conquest of California would have  
14 additionally provided two sorely needed ports, free of union  
15 blockades; and

16 WHEREAS, the fulfillment of their plans would have severed  
17 the western territories from the union and strengthened the  
18 position of the confederacy; and

19 WHEREAS, they next planned to take over the Mexican states  
20 of lower California, Sonora and Chihuahua, which had the  
21 potential to gain much needed recognition by foreign countries;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the Texas confederate forces were met in a  
24 skirmish and fought two battles with the union forces at  
25 Glorieta pass on March 26 to 28, 1862; and

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1           WHEREAS, even though the confederate forces were  
2           victorious in these two battles, they were forced to abandon  
3           their dream of taking over Fort Union and conquering the west  
4           when their supply of sixty to eighty wagons, loaded with  
5           weapons, medical supplies, food and blankets, was burned and  
6           four hundred mules and horses were captured by a contingent of  
7           United States regular army forces from Fort Union and  
8           volunteers from Colorado and New Mexico; and

9           WHEREAS, after this tremendous loss, the confederate  
10          Texans had no other choice but to abandon General Sibley's  
11          dream and retreat back to Santa Fe, then to Albuquerque and  
12          eventually out of New Mexico and back to Texas; and

13          WHEREAS, this turning point in the confederate campaign in  
14          New Mexico, the battle of Glorieta pass, is referred to by some  
15          historians as the Gettysburg of the west; and

16          WHEREAS, although the loss of men killed, wounded or  
17          missing in the Civil War battles fought in New Mexico may seem  
18          insignificant compared to the carnage of the Civil War battles  
19          that were fought in the east and south, the importance and  
20          significance of this battle cannot be overstated, as the  
21          ultimate outcome helped hold the union together and assured its  
22          survival in what we now know as the United States of America;  
23          and

24          WHEREAS, the proposed monument would honor Lieutenant  
25          Colonel Manuel Chavez and the New Mexico volunteers who

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1 participated in the battle of Glorieta pass on March 26-28,  
2 1862; and

3 WHEREAS, the proposed monument would be located at the  
4 Glorieta pass battlefield site in the immediate vicinity of the  
5 current monuments honoring the Colorado volunteers and the  
6 Texas volunteers;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
9 congressional delegation be requested to introduce a  
10 congressional resolution requesting that the national park  
11 service grant a waiver and give permission to the friends of  
12 the Pecos national park to erect a monument honoring New Mexico  
13 soldiers and volunteers at the Glorieta pass battlefield in the  
14 immediate vicinity of current monuments honoring Colorado  
15 volunteers and Texas volunteers; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Lieutenant Colonel Manuel  
17 Chavez and New Mexico volunteers at the battle of Glorieta pass  
18 be honored at the proposed memorial site; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional  
21 delegation, the secretary of the United States department of  
22 the interior, the director of the national park service, the  
23 superintendent of the Pecos national historical park and the  
24 nonprofit organization, the friends of the Pecos national  
25 historical park.

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