

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 131

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL
12 FOR THE GLORIETA PASS CIVIL WAR BATTLE SITE.

13
14 WHEREAS, there were more than eight thousand New Mexicans,
15 six thousand three hundred of whom were Spanish-speaking New
16 Mexico Hispanos, who fought in the American Civil War in New
17 Mexico in February and March of 1862; and

18 WHEREAS, the two major battles were the battle at Valverde
19 in the southern part of New Mexico and the battle at Glorieta
20 Pass just north of Santa Fe; and

21 WHEREAS, the confederates' move to the west during the
22 Civil War was prompted by the fact that the confederacy was
23 losing the Civil War to the union; and

24 WHEREAS, the confederates were in urgent need of soldiers
25 and resources and therefore devised a plan to head west to

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1 capture New Mexico and Colorado for the gold and silver mines
2 and continue west to control the ports in southern California
3 and the finances, soldiers and resources that would come with
4 these holdings; and

5 WHEREAS, the first major battle fought in the west was the
6 battle at Valverde, north of Fort Craig and one hundred miles
7 south of Albuquerque, on February 21, 1862, where the
8 confederates defeated the union army in a brutal and bloody
9 battle; and

10 WHEREAS, after suffering defeat, the union soldiers made
11 their way back to Fort Union to regroup and prepare for the
12 next battle; and

13 WHEREAS, the confederates easily captured Albuquerque and
14 Santa Fe in their move northward with plans to finish off the
15 union soldiers at Fort Union; and

16 WHEREAS, the battle at Glorieta Pass took place from March
17 26 to March 28, 1862; and

18 WHEREAS, the eight hundred regular and volunteer union
19 soldiers at Fort Union were joined by nine hundred fifty
20 Colorado volunteer infantrymen; and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico volunteers were led by Lieutenant
22 Colonel Manuel Chavez, Rafael Chacon, Corporal Albino Garcia
23 and scouts like Anastasio Duran, Innocencio Arellanes and many
24 others from Las Vegas and Chaperito, New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, the New Mexico volunteers provided the

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1 intelligence of this battle as they knew the terrain, territory
2 and mountains of the Pecos wilderness and Glorieta Pass; and

3 WHEREAS, casualty figures vary, but it is estimated that
4 the union soldiers suffered thirty-eight killed and sixty-four
5 wounded, fifteen captured and three missing, and the
6 confederates suffered thirty-six killed, sixty wounded and
7 twenty-five captured during the three-day battle; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico volunteers' Lieutenant Colonel
9 Chavez and scouts, including Anastasio Duran and others, had
10 detected the long train of eighty supply wagons filled with
11 clothing, supplies, food and ammunition sitting virtually
12 undefended at Johnson's ranch at the west entrance to Glorieta
13 Pass near present-day Canoncito while the battle raged on; and

14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico Hispano volunteers led the effort
15 to set the train of eighty wagons on fire and chased away more
16 than five hundred horses and mules; and

17 WHEREAS, the confederates were left without ammunition,
18 supplies, horses, mules or food and had no choice but to
19 accept defeat and retreat back to Santa Fe; and

20 WHEREAS, eventually, the confederates were forced to
21 gather what little remained and prepare for the long retreat
22 back to San Antonio, Texas, as they were followed and closely
23 monitored by the New Mexico Hispano soldiers; and

24 WHEREAS, this was classified as a major victory for the
25 union army led by the Spanish-speaking soldiers and volunteers

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1 of New Mexico whose knowledge of the terrain and territory
2 proved to be the strategic key to this victory; and

3 WHEREAS, the victory at Glorieta Pass secured the west for
4 the union, and was the last battle in the west during the Civil
5 War; and

6 WHEREAS, the Civil War sites advisory commission was
7 established in 1990 to identify the nation's historically
8 significant Civil War sites, determine their relative
9 importance, determine their condition, assess threats to their
10 integrity and recommend alternatives for preserving and
11 interpreting them; and

12 WHEREAS, the "Report on the Nation's Civil War
13 Battlefields" issued in 1993 presented the commission's
14 findings; and

15 WHEREAS, the commission categorized each battlefield as
16 class A, B, C and D according to its historical significance
17 and designated the priority of preservation of each battlefield
18 as I, II, III and IV based on historical significance, the
19 integrity of the remaining battlefield features and the level
20 of threat to the battlefield's existence; and

21 WHEREAS, of the roughly ten thousand five hundred military
22 actions of the Civil War, three hundred eighty-four, or three
23 and seven hundredths percent, were identified by the commission
24 as principal battles and rated according to their significance
25 and risk of loss; and

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1 WHEREAS, class A and B battlefields represent the
2 principal strategic operations of the war, class A battlefields
3 having a decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact
4 on the course of the war and class B battlefields having a
5 direct and decisive influence on the campaign; and

6 WHEREAS, the Glorieta Pass battlefield was designated as a
7 priority I.1, meaning it is a class A battlefield with fair
8 integrity, moderate threats and less than twenty percent of its
9 core area protected; and

10 WHEREAS, with this rating, the commission placed Glorieta
11 Pass on the same level with battles such as Gettysburg and
12 Antietam; and

13 WHEREAS, the commission recommended that congress focus
14 its preservation efforts on priority I nationally significant
15 battlefields; and

16 WHEREAS, since 1993, portions of the Glorieta Pass
17 battlefield have become a unit of the national park service;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Glorieta Pass unit Pigeon's ranch comprises
20 roughly twenty percent of the total battlefield, and the
21 remaining eighty percent is in private ownership; and

22 WHEREAS, the Glorieta Pass battlefield is managed by Pecos
23 national historic park and is supported by the Glorieta
24 battlefield coalition, a nonprofit citizens' organization; and

25 WHEREAS, the Glorieta Pass battlefield also is designated

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1 as a national historic landmark, which means it is a site
2 possessing exceptional value or quality in illustrating or
3 interpreting the heritage of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, fewer than two thousand five hundred historic
5 places in the nation bear this distinction;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that a task force be convened, composed of
8 representatives from the cultural affairs department, the
9 county of Santa Fe, the Hispano Round Table of New Mexico, the
10 New Mexico League of United Latin American Citizens and the
11 historical society of New Mexico, to plan the development of an
12 American Civil War memorial to be placed at the Glorieta Pass
13 battle site; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
15 findings and make recommendations to the appropriate interim
16 committee at the committee's November 2015 meeting; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
19 council and to the cultural affairs department, the county of
20 Santa Fe, the Hispano Round Table of New Mexico, the New Mexico
21 League of United Latin American Citizens and the historical
22 society of New Mexico.