

HOUSE MEMORIAL 111

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO VOLUNTEERS
MONUMENT IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE-HUNDRED-FIFTY-SIXTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS.

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2018 the one-hundred-fifty-sixth
anniversary of the battle of Glorieta pass near Pecos, New
Mexico, will be commemorated; and

WHEREAS, a monument will be dedicated in memory and honor
of Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Antonio Chaves and a contingent of
New Mexico volunteers who fought alongside union regulars and
Colorado volunteers and spearheaded a union flanking movement
at the battle of Glorieta pass on March 26-28, 1862; and

WHEREAS, the flanking movement ultimately caused the
confederate forces to retreat to Texas and to give up on the
effort to annex the entire west and parts of northern Mexico;

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1 and

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

6 WHEREAS, the volunteers of the Texas confederate forces
7 were victorious in defeating the union forces at the battle of
8 Valverde on February 21, 1862; shortly afterwards, on February
9 25, 1862, they captured Socorro; and on March 7, 1862,
10 Albuquerque was captured; and

11 WHEREAS, the confederate forces captured Santa Fe on March
12 10, 1862, the capital having been moved earlier by the New
13 Mexico territorial governor, the honorable Henry Connelly, to
14 Las Vegas, New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, following these battlefield successes, the
16 confederate forces planned to conquer Fort Union and then march
17 to Colorado to take over the mines located there; and

18 WHEREAS, from there, the confederate forces intended to
19 form an alliance with the Mormons and together take over the
20 gold fields of California, which would have provided much
21 needed capital for the confederacy; and

22 WHEREAS, the conquest of California would have
23 additionally provided two sorely needed ports, free of union
24 blockades; and

25 WHEREAS, the fulfillment of the confederate plans would

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1 have severed the western territories from the union and
2 strengthened the position of the confederacy; and

3 WHEREAS, the confederate forces next planned to take over
4 the Mexican states of Baja California, Sonora and Chihuahua,
5 which had the potential to gain much needed recognition by
6 foreign countries; and

7 WHEREAS, the confederate forces were met in a skirmish and
8 fought two battles with the union forces at Glorieta pass on
9 March 26 to 28, 1862; and

10 WHEREAS, even though the confederate forces were
11 victorious in these two battles, they were forced to abandon
12 their dream of taking over Fort Union and conquering the west
13 when their supply of sixty to eighty wagons, loaded with
14 weapons, medical supplies, food and blankets, was burned and
15 four hundred mules and horses were captured by a contingent of
16 United States regular army forces from Fort Union and
17 volunteers from Colorado and New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, after this tremendous loss, the confederate
19 forces had no choice but to abandon General Sibley's dream and
20 retreat back to Santa Fe, then to Albuquerque and eventually
21 out of New Mexico and back to Texas; and

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

25 WHEREAS, although the loss of men killed, wounded or

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1 missing in the Civil War battles fought in New Mexico may seem
2 insignificant compared to the carnage of the Civil War battles
3 that were fought in the east and south, the importance and
4 significance of this battle cannot be overstated, as the
5 ultimate outcome helped hold the union together and assured its
6 survival in what we now know as the United States of America;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the March 24,
9 2018 dedication of the New Mexico volunteers monument in
10 commemoration of the one-hundred-fifty-sixth anniversary of the
11 battle of Glorieta pass be celebrated; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional
14 delegation, the national park service, the superintendent of
15 Pecos national historical park and the friends of Pecos
16 national historical park.