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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 74
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY
Roberto J. Gonzales

A JOINT MEMORIAL

ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE AND
SACRIFICE OF NEW MEXICO BATAAN VETERANS AND BATAAN VETERANS
FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, the national guard of New Mexico is the oldest
continuing militia group in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the people of many villages all across New Mexico
suffered the loss of loved ones, friends and fellow citizens
during World War II, most noticeably and heroically during the
fall of the Philippines and the subsequent Bataan death march;
and

WHEREAS, Taos is the former home of the 200th coastal
artillery, which found itself in the Philippines during the
war's opening months; and

WHEREAS, the Bataan veterans were in the most decorated

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1 unit of World War II; and

2 WHEREAS, there are sixty Bataan veterans in New Mexico,
3 and Taos wants to honor them, their deceased buddies, their
4 fellow comrades and their wives and families on May 8 and 9,
5 2004; and

6 WHEREAS, Taos plans an intergenerational celebration and
7 platform for education and reflection, featuring the showing of
8 the documentary film "Colors of Courage"; and

9 WHEREAS, "Colors of Courage", directed by three-time Emmy
10 award winners Tony Martinez and Scott Henry, tells the story of
11 the notorious Bataan death march, putting it into both global
12 and local context; and

13 WHEREAS, the film follows Manuel Armijo and Evan Garcia as
14 they return to the Philippines for the first time since the
15 war; and

16 WHEREAS, the film was funded by Dr. Tobias Duran, director
17 of the university of New Mexico's center for regional studies
18 in Albuquerque;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that acknowledgment and congratulations be
21 given to those communities that recognize the courage and
22 sacrifice of the Bataan veterans and their importance to the
23 state; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the mayor of Taos and the chairman of the New

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Mexico veterans' service commission.

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