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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6**

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Pete Campos**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH THE LAS VEGAS VETERANS COMMITTEE ON A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE FUNDING THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO CREATE THE LAS VEGAS ARMORY CENTER.**

**WHEREAS, the development of the Las Vegas armory center, formerly known as the "old armory building", has been initiated by a group of veterans who served with three New Mexico national guard battalions; and**

**WHEREAS, the members of the three New Mexico national guard battalions, in anticipation of war, volunteered early, fifteen months before the attack on Pearl Harbor; and**

**WHEREAS, one of the three battalions, the 200th coast**

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1 artillery, was the first to fight but lacked support because  
2 the country was not fully prepared; and

3 WHEREAS, the second battalion, the 120th combat engineer  
4 battalion, together with the southwestern 45th infantry, saw  
5 the most days of direct combat, five hundred eleven, of any  
6 division in the Pacific or Atlantic theaters; and

7 WHEREAS, the 120th combat engineer battalion was the first  
8 national guard unit federalized to go to Bataan; and

9 WHEREAS, the 45th infantry had the largest number of  
10 Hispanics and Native Americans of any division; and

11 WHEREAS, the 45th infantry was lauded by General George  
12 Patton as the first to serve under his command, and Marshall  
13 Kesselring, overall German commander in the Mediterranean area,  
14 said that it was one of the two best United States divisions  
15 against which he had ever fought; and

16 WHEREAS, the third battalion, the 804th tank destroyer  
17 battalion, saw honorable action in Italy and Germany; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico veterans have served with distinction  
19 throughout the state's history, and there are currently over  
20 one hundred ninety thousand veterans in the state; and

21 WHEREAS, the community of Las Vegas voted to preserve the  
22 old armory building and create the Las Vegas veterans center in  
23 order to serve the needs of northern New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, there is a coordinated initiative, through the  
25 Las Vegas veterans committee, to use the "old armory building"

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1 as the Las Vegas armory center for education, training,  
2 housing, medical and social services and general economic  
3 development for veterans;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the work of the Las Vegas veterans  
6 committee to preserve and restore the "old armory building" and  
7 convert it into the Las Vegas armory center be recognized; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Vegas veterans  
9 committee be requested to work with the New Mexico  
10 congressional delegation, the veterans' services department, an  
11 appropriate interim legislative committee and the legislative  
12 finance committee to complete, by October 31, 2005, a study of  
13 the feasibility of obtaining the funding that would be needed  
14 to make the Las Vegas armory center a reality; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the Las Vegas veterans committee, the New Mexico  
17 congressional delegation, the veterans' services department,  
18 the New Mexico legislative council and the legislative finance  
19 committee.