

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR DECLARE MARCH 29, 2013 AS  
"VIETNAM VETERANS DAY" IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1962, United States Army pilots  
lifted more than one thousand south Vietnamese service members  
over jungle and underbrush to capture a national liberation  
front stronghold near Saigon; and

WHEREAS, Operation Chopper marked America's first combat  
mission against the Viet Cong and the beginning of one of the  
longest and most challenging wars; and

WHEREAS, through more than a decade of conflict that  
tested the fabric of the nation, the service of men and women  
in uniform stood true; and

WHEREAS, thousands returned home bearing shrapnel and  
scars; more were burdened by the invisible wounds of  
posttraumatic stress disorder, agent orange and memories that  
would never fade; and many of these men and women came home to  
be shunned or neglected and to face treatment unbecoming  
their courage and a welcome unworthy of their example; and

WHEREAS, America's veterans answered the country's call  
and served with honor, and on March 29, 1973, the last United  
States' troops left Vietnam, where more than fifty-eight  
thousand laid down their lives in service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, fifty-one years later, we honor the sacrifice

of the more than three million Americans who served in Vietnam by serving them as well as they served the country and by reaffirming one of the most fundamental obligations to show all who have worn the uniform of the United States the respect and dignity that they deserve, and by paying tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served and the millions more who awaited their return; and

WHEREAS, the United States stands stronger for their service, and their proud legacy is honored with deepest gratitude;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare March 29, 2013 "Vietnam Veterans Day" in the state of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the office of the governor, the office of the lieutenant governor and the veterans' services department.