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A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the confederates were in urgent need of
soldiers and resources and therefore devised a plan to head
west to capture New Mexico and Colorado for the gold and
silver mines and continue west to control the ports in
southern California and the finances, soldiers and resources
that would come with these holdings; and

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

1 battle; and

2 WHEREAS, after suffering defeat, the union soldiers made
3 their way back to Fort Union to regroup and prepare for the
4 next battle; and

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

8 WHEREAS, the battle at Glorieta pass took place from
9 March 26 to March 28, 1862; and

10 WHEREAS, the eight hundred regular and volunteer union
11 soldiers at Fort Union were joined by nine hundred fifty
12 Colorado volunteer infantrymen; and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico volunteers were led by
14 Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Chavez, Captain Rafael Chacon,
15 Corporal Albino Garcia and scouts like Anastasio Duran,
16 Innocencio Arellanes and many others from Las Vegas and
17 Chaperito, New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, the New Mexico volunteers provided the
19 intelligence of this battle, as they knew the terrain,
20 territory and mountains of the Pecos wilderness and Glorieta
21 pass; and

22 WHEREAS, casualty figures vary, but it is estimated that
23 the union soldiers suffered thirty-eight killed and
24 sixty-four wounded, fifteen captured and three missing, and
25 the confederates suffered thirty-six killed, sixty wounded

1 and twenty-five captured during the three-day battle; and

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, this was classified as a major victory for the
20 union army, led by the Spanish-speaking soldiers and
21 volunteers of New Mexico, whose knowledge of the terrain and
22 territory proved to be the strategic key to this victory; and

23 WHEREAS, the victory at Glorieta pass secured the west
24 for the union and was the last battle in the west during the
25 Civil War; and

1 WHEREAS, the Civil War sites advisory commission was
2 established in 1990 to identify the nation's historically
3 significant Civil War sites, determine their relative
4 importance, determine their condition, assess threats to
5 their integrity and recommend alternatives for preserving and
6 interpreting them; and

7 WHEREAS, the *Report on the Nation's Civil War*
8 *Battlefields* issued in 1993 presented the commission's
9 findings; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, class A and B battlefields represent the
23 principal strategic operations of the war, class A
24 battlefields having a decisive influence on a campaign and a
25 direct impact on the course of the war and class B

1 battlefields having a direct and decisive influence on the
2 campaign; and

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

7 WHEREAS, with this rating, the commission placed
8 Glorieta pass on the same level with battles such as
9 Gettysburg and Antietam; and

10 WHEREAS, the commission recommended that congress focus
11 its preservation efforts on priority I nationally significant
12 battlefields; and

13 WHEREAS, since 1993, portions of the Glorieta pass
14 battlefield have become a unit of the national park service;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Glorieta pass unit Pigeon's ranch comprises
17 roughly twenty percent of the total battlefield, and the
18 remaining eighty percent is in private ownership; and

19 WHEREAS, the Glorieta pass battlefield is managed by
20 Pecos national historic park and is supported by the Glorieta
21 battlefield coalition, a nonprofit citizens' organization;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the Glorieta pass battlefield also is
24 designated as a national historic landmark, which means it is
25 a site possessing exceptional value or quality in

1 illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the
2 United States; and

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

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a task force be convened, composed
7 of representatives from the cultural affairs department, the
8 county of Santa Fe, the Hispano round table of New Mexico,
9 the New Mexico league of united Latin American citizens and
10 the historical society of New Mexico, to plan the development
11 of an American Civil War memorial to be placed at the
12 Glorieta pass battle site; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
14 findings and make recommendations to the appropriate interim
15 committee at the committee's November 2019 meeting; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
18 council and to the cultural affairs department, the county of
19 Santa Fe, the Hispano round table of New Mexico, the
20 New Mexico league of united Latin American citizens and the
21 historical society of New Mexico. _____

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