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SENATE MEMORIAL 83

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

William H. Payne

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING MARCH 11, 2019 "MILITARY AND VETERANS' DAY" IN THE
SENATE.

WHEREAS, this nation was founded on the belief that
Americans are guaranteed the inalienable rights of life,
liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, the freedom Americans enjoy does not come without
a price, as it is protected by those who have served in the
United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, America's brave military men and women have
sacrificed to preserve and protect America's way of life from
all enemies, both foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, throughout New Mexico's history, military service
has been important to New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, during pre-statehood territorial days, farmers

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1 and landowners helped the union army stop the spread of the
2 confederacy at the battle of Glorieta during the Civil War; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexicans have readily answered the nation's
4 call to arms, from World War I to the most recent wars in Iraq
5 and Afghanistan; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico has consistently ranked among the
7 highest per capita rates of service by any state in the nation;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, with five military bases within New Mexico's
10 borders today, along with eleven thousand active-duty
11 personnel, more than five thousand reserve and national guard
12 members and one hundred fifty-six thousand veterans, the
13 military and veteran presence continues to be a vital part of
14 the fabric of New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, veterans have a major impact on New Mexico's
16 economy, and account for one billion five hundred million
17 dollars (\$1,500,000,000) in benefits, services and expenditures
18 by the United States department of veterans affairs in the
19 state; and

20 WHEREAS, the average income of a veteran in New Mexico is
21 forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), seventeen thousand dollars
22 (\$17,000) more than non-veteran wage earners; and

23 WHEREAS, there are twenty-five thousand veteran-owned
24 businesses in New Mexico, accounting for nearly six billion
25 five hundred million dollars (\$6,500,000,000) in economic

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1 activity, and after veterans have served their country, they
2 continue to serve New Mexico's economy;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that March 11, 2019 be declared "Military and
5 Veterans' Day" in the senate to acknowledge and honor the
6 service, sacrifice and overall impact of this nation's
7 active-duty service members and veterans in New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 sent to the governor, the adjutant general and the secretary of
10 veterans' services.