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SENATE MEMORIAL 51

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Harold Pope

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 20, 2023 "MILITARY AND VETERANS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, the nation was founded on the belief that all Americans live in a free society and are guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, these freedoms everyone enjoys do not come without a price, and they have been fought for and defended by the nation's military service members who have sacrificed to preserve and protect those freedoms and the country from all enemies, foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, there exists in New Mexico a long and proud history of military service by its residents, dating back to the indigenous peoples who were willing to fight for, and

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1 defend, their land from European settlers; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexicans turned back the Confederacy at the
3 battle of Glorieta pass in northern New Mexico in 1862; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexicans were an integral part of Teddy
5 Roosevelt's famed "rough riders", who helped drive off Spain
6 from Cuba and led to victory in the Spanish-American War; and

7 WHEREAS, in World War I, fourteen thousand one hundred New
8 Mexicans served; forty-nine thousand five hundred New Mexicans
9 served in World War II; twenty-five thousand New Mexicans
10 served in the Korean conflict; fifty-seven thousand New
11 Mexicans served in the Vietnam conflict; and more than fifty
12 thousand New Mexicans have served since the Gulf War; and

13 WHEREAS, with four military installations, twelve thousand
14 seven hundred active-duty personnel, four thousand national
15 guard and reserve members, as well as one hundred forty-one
16 thousand veterans living in the state, military influence
17 remains a strong part of the fabric of New Mexico today;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that recognition be extended to New Mexico's
20 military personnel and veterans by declaring February 20, 2023
21 "Military and Veterans Day" in the senate; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico's current and
23 former military service members be honored and thanked for
24 their service and sacrifice for the country; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the secretary-designate of veterans' services.