

1 A MEMORIAL

2 CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO VOLUNTEERS  
3 MONUMENT IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE-HUNDRED-FIFTY-SIXTH  
4 ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS.

5  
6 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2018 the one-hundred-fifty-sixth  
7 anniversary of the battle of Glorieta pass near Pecos, New  
8 Mexico, will be commemorated; and

9 WHEREAS, a monument will be dedicated in memory and  
10 honor of Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Antonio Chaves and a  
11 contingent of New Mexico volunteers who fought alongside  
12 union regulars and Colorado volunteers and spearheaded a  
13 union flanking movement at the battle of Glorieta pass on  
14 March 26-28, 1862; and

15 WHEREAS, the flanking movement ultimately caused the  
16 confederate forces to retreat to Texas and to give up on the  
17 effort to annex the entire west and parts of northern Mexico;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in January 1862, confederate General Henry  
20 Hopkins Sibley, with a brigade of two thousand six hundred  
21 Texans, invaded the territory of New Mexico with the  
22 intention of claiming the territory and the west for the  
23 confederacy; and

24 WHEREAS, the volunteers of the Texas confederate forces  
25 were victorious in defeating the union forces at the battle

1 of Valverde on February 21, 1862; shortly afterwards, on  
2 February 25, 1862, they captured Socorro; and on March 7,  
3 1862, Albuquerque was captured; and

4 WHEREAS, the confederate forces captured Santa Fe on  
5 March 10, 1862, the capital having been moved earlier by the  
6 New Mexico territorial governor, the honorable Henry  
7 Connelly, to Las Vegas, New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, following these battlefield successes, the  
9 confederate forces planned to conquer Fort Union and then  
10 march to Colorado to take over the mines located there; and

11 WHEREAS, from there, the confederate forces intended to  
12 form an alliance with the Mormons and together take over the  
13 gold fields of California, which would have provided much  
14 needed capital for the confederacy; and

15 WHEREAS, the conquest of California would have  
16 additionally provided two sorely needed ports, free of union  
17 blockades; and

18 WHEREAS, the fulfillment of the confederate plans would  
19 have severed the western territories from the union and  
20 strengthened the position of the confederacy; and

21 WHEREAS, the confederate forces next planned to take  
22 over the Mexican states of Baja California, Sonora and  
23 Chihuahua, which had the potential to gain much needed  
24 recognition by foreign countries; and

25 WHEREAS, the confederate forces were met in a skirmish

1 and fought two battles with the union forces at Glorieta pass  
2 on March 26 to 28, 1862; and

3 WHEREAS, even though the confederate forces were  
4 victorious in these two battles, they were forced to abandon  
5 their dream of taking over Fort Union and conquering the west  
6 when their supply of sixty to eighty wagons, loaded with  
7 weapons, medical supplies, food and blankets, was burned and  
8 four hundred mules and horses were captured by a contingent  
9 of United States regular army forces from Fort Union and  
10 volunteers from Colorado and New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, after this tremendous loss, the confederate  
12 forces had no choice but to abandon General Sibley's dream  
13 and retreat back to Santa Fe, then to Albuquerque and  
14 eventually out of New Mexico and back to Texas; and

15 WHEREAS, this turning point in the confederate campaign  
16 in New Mexico, the battle of Glorieta pass, is referred to by  
17 some historians as the Gettysburg of the west; and

18 WHEREAS, although the loss of men killed, wounded or  
19 missing in the Civil War battles fought in New Mexico may  
20 seem insignificant compared to the carnage of the Civil War  
21 battles that were fought in the east and south, the  
22 importance and significance of this battle cannot be  
23 overstated, as the ultimate outcome helped hold the union  
24 together and assured its survival in what we now know as the  
25 United States of America;

1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the March 24,  
3 2018 dedication of the New Mexico volunteers monument in  
4 commemoration of the one-hundred-fifty-sixth anniversary of  
5 the battle of Glorieta pass be celebrated; and

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional  
8 delegation, the national park service, the superintendent of  
9 Pecos national historical park and the friends of Pecos  
10 national historical park.

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