

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
SUPPORT LEGISLATION AMENDING 38 U. S. C. 2408 TO INCLUDE  
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS FROM THE  
FEDERAL STATE CEMETERY GRANTS PROGRAM TO ENABLE A NATIVE  
AMERICAN VETERANS' NATIONAL CEMETERY WITHIN THE FOUR SACRED  
MOUNTAINS OF THE NAVAJO NATION.**

**WHEREAS, the federal state cemetery grants program has  
obligated over fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in grants  
to establish, expand or improve more than forty state  
veterans' cemeteries; and**

**WHEREAS, the only veterans' cemetery on the Navajo  
Nation is located in Fort Defiance, Arizona, and it is  
filled to capacity with veterans from the Navajo Nation; and**

**WHEREAS, sixteen thousand Navajo people have served as  
veterans since the treaty of 1868 was signed; and**

**WHEREAS, the average age of Navajo Nation World War II  
veterans is seventy-five years, and over fifty veterans die  
each year; and**

**WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has three potential  
locations for cemeteries, each one covering more than forty  
acres, and none is far from available services; and**

**WHEREAS, because so many Navajo people have served the  
United States bravely and with dignity, it is necessary that**

an appropriate final resting place be available for them near their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to support legislation expanding 38 U.S.C. 2408 to include tribal governments in the distribution of grants from the federal state cemetery grants program so that a Native American veterans' national cemetery can be established within the four sacred mountains of the Navajo Nation, allowing both Native American and non-native veterans to be buried near their homes in the Gallup, Grants, Farmington, Shiprock and Window Rock areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the director of the department of Navajo veterans affairs, the secretary of the United States department of veterans affairs and the state director of veterans' affairs. \_\_\_\_\_