

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CEMETERY AT
THE VIETNAM VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN ANGEL FIRE.

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WHEREAS, Victor Westphall, along with his wife Jeanne and younger son
Douglas, began building a memorial shortly after his son Victor David Westphall
was killed in Vietnam in 1968; and

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WHEREAS, they employed the services of Ted Luna to design a structure
with gentle curves, more a sculpture than a conventional building; and

WHEREAS, the memorial is an enduring symbol not only of the tragedy of
David's death but of the tragedy and futility of war; and

WHEREAS, since its opening in 1971, the memorial has gained in attention,
and visitors now number about seventy thousand annually; and

WHEREAS, the memorial was the first memorial dedicated to all Vietnam
veterans; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is proud to be the home of this distinguished and
distinctive symbol;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States
department of veterans affairs be requested to study the feasibility of establishing a
national cemetery at the Vietnam veterans national memorial in Angel Fire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to

the secretary of the United States department of veterans affairs and the New
Mexico congressional delegation.

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