

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/16/08
 LAST UPDATED 1/16/08 HB _____

SPONSOR Cisneros

SHORT TITLE Congressional Gold Medal for Bataan Veterans SJM 1

ANALYST Escudero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

No Response from Veterans Service Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial requests the New Mexico congressional delegation to introduce legislation to award the congressional gold medal for Bataan veterans.

- Beginning December 8, 1941, in the critical early hours of World War II, the 200th coast artillery of the New Mexico national guard was in the first line of defense in the United States commonwealth territory of the Philippines against the attack launched by Japanese forces immediately after Japan's December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- During the 1941 Japanese invasion of the Philippines, the 200th coast artillery of the New Mexico national guard stood between the invading Japanese forces and the freedom of the American and Filipino peoples.
- The 200th coast artillery was the first to fire upon Japanese forces and the last to put down their rifles when ordered to surrender on April 9, 1942.
- Before being ordered to surrender, the men of the 200th coast artillery made a valiant stand in the face of terrible odds, while suffering through months of enemy attack with outmoded equipment; a scarcity of food, medicine and ammunition; and diseases such as malaria, dysentery and beriberi that ravaged them to utter exhaustion.
- The men of the 200th coast artillery were captured by Japanese forces on April 9, 1942 and, in an already starved, exhausted and sickened state, they had to endure the infamous

Senate Joint Memorial 1 – Page 2

Bataan death march, during which Japanese soldiers forced the men of the 200th coast artillery to march for six long days in scorching tropical heat while starving and brutalizing the men along the way.

- The courageous men of the 200th coast artillery endured four years in prisoner of war camps, where they were forced into slave labor and lost scores of their ranks to starvation, disease and brutality.
- The men who returned home contributed immeasurably to the country's growth as members of the "greatest generation".
- The 200th coast artillery received four presidential unit citations and the Philippine presidential citation for their valorous defense of the American and Filipino peoples.
- The congressional gold medal is considered the nation's highest civilian award and the most distinguished award given by the United States congress for citizens who represent the best characteristics of the American people;
- That the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to introduce legislation to award the congressional gold medal to the men of the 200th coast artillery of the New Mexico national guard.

The Memorial further resolves that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation and to the Governor.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is not appropriation attached to this legislation. The cost will be determined by how many veterans will be receiving this award and the cost of each individual medal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This Memorial is to honor and award the congressional gold medal to the men of the 200th coast artillery of the New Mexico national guard for these men represent the best characteristics of the American people and this congressional gold medal highest civilian award and the most distinguished award given by the United States congress.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The decoration is awarded to an individual who performs an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The cost for each of these gold medals will be collaborated with Federal Funds.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

By not honoring our Veterans for their exemplified bravery and strength could create poor moral for those who are currently serving in the National Guard.

PME/bb