

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Garcia

FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

COMMENDING THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE VETERANS
ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER AND THE VILLAGE OF ANGEL FIRE ON
THEIR PARTNERSHIP TO CREATE A NATIONAL VETERANS' WELLNESS AND
HEALING CENTER.

WHEREAS, there is growing evidence that veterans and
service members who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan return
home with an increased incidence of post-traumatic stress
disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression and other health
and mental health disorders that severely compromise their
well-being; and

WHEREAS, veterans and service members of other wars and
conflicts such as the Vietnam War also suffer from these
conditions, and they are now beginning to seek treatment for
those conditions; and

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1 WHEREAS, the world health organization in 1948 defined
2 health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social
3 well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity";
4 and

5 WHEREAS, wellness programs are now becoming broadly
6 accepted approaches to establishing a condition of health in
7 business communities and are recognized in many health
8 insurance products as viable avenues to ensuring health; and

9 WHEREAS, programs that foster wellness or well-being have
10 been shown to restore a sense of connectedness and belonging to
11 veterans and service members to their families and communities,
12 and to improve their abilities to function and perform at
13 personal, professional and organizational levels; and

14 WHEREAS, House Memorial 39, introduced in the first
15 legislative session of 2009, requested the veterans' services
16 department to work with the village of Angel Fire to study the
17 feasibility of developing a veterans' health and healing center
18 in the Moreno valley in northern New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, in response to that memorial, a preliminary plan
20 for a national veterans' wellness and healing center has been
21 developed, which includes identification of a location,
22 facility, corporate structure, economic and other project
23 benefits and financial analysis; and

24 WHEREAS, in recognition of the pressing need for a
25 veterans' wellness and healing center, the village of Angel

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1 Fire conducted a veterans' wellness and healing retreat based
2 on a holistic approach that was attended by eleven couples, all
3 of whom reported exceptional value and benefit from attending
4 the retreat; and

5 WHEREAS, nine additional retreats are planned to occur in
6 2010; and

7 WHEREAS, the plan for the national veterans' wellness and
8 healing center will incorporate the retreats as the treatment
9 modality for the future; and

10 WHEREAS, the veterans administration post-traumatic stress
11 disorder program endorses this concept and will provide an
12 ongoing source of referrals for the center and for future
13 retreats; and

14 WHEREAS, no similar program exists in the nation at this
15 time, promising participation from veterans and service members
16 from all over the country as the center is established;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans' services department, the
19 veterans administration medical center and the village of Angel
20 Fire be commended on their partnership to create a national
21 veterans' wellness and healing center; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services, the
24 administrator of the veterans administration medical center for
25 post-traumatic stress disorder program and the mayor of the

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1 village of Angel Fire.

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