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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Jim R. Trujillo

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SEEK
PASSAGE OF A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNITED
STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING
THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS
IN NEW MEXICO AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BATTLE OF
GLORIETA PASS.

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

WHEREAS, the volunteers of the Texas confederate forces
were victorious in defeating the union forces at the battle of
Valverde on February 21, 1862, and shortly afterwards, on
February 25, 1862, they captured Socorro, and on March 7, 1862,

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1 Albuquerque was captured; and

2 WHEREAS, the confederate forces captured Santa Fe on March
3 10, 1862, the capital having been moved earlier by the New
4 Mexico territorial governor, the honorable Henry Connelly, to
5 Las Vegas, New Mexico; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, the fulfillment of their plans would have severed
17 the western territories from the Union and strengthened the
18 position of the confederacy; and

19 WHEREAS, they next planned to take over the Mexican states
20 of lower California, Sonora and Chihuahua, which had the
21 potential to gain much needed recognition by foreign countries;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the Texas confederate forces were met in a
24 skirmish and fought two battles with the union forces at
25 Glorieta Pass on March 26 to 28, 1862; and

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

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
25 delegation be requested to introduce a congressional resolution

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1 requesting the United States postal service to issue a
2 commemorative stamp honoring the sesquicentennial anniversary
3 of the battle of Glorieta pass in New Mexico and recognizing
4 the importance of the battle of Glorieta pass; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker
7 of the United States house of representatives, the president of
8 the United States senate, the members of the New Mexico
9 congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States
10 department of the interior, the postmaster general of the
11 United States postal service and the nonprofit organization,
12 the friends of the Pecos national historical park.