

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012 AS
12 "BATAAN MEMORIAL MONTH" IN THE STATE; HONORING AND GIVING
13 GRATITUDE TO THE MEN OF THE 200TH COAST ARTILLERY FOR THEIR
14 COURAGE AND SACRIFICE DURING THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH AND TO THE
15 CITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HOLD CEREMONIES TO HONOR THE MEN
16 OF THE 200TH COAST ARTILLERY.

17
18 WHEREAS, beginning December 8, 1941, in the critical early
19 hours of World War II, the 200th coast artillery of the New
20 Mexico national guard was in the first line of defense in the
21 United States commonwealth territory of the Philippines against
22 the attack launched by Japanese forces immediately after
23 Japan's December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

24 WHEREAS, during the 1941 Japanese invasion of the
25 Philippines, the 200th coast artillery of the New Mexico

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1 national guard stood between the invading Japanese forces and
2 the freedom of the American and Filipino peoples; and

3 WHEREAS, the men of the 200th coast artillery were the
4 first to fire upon Japanese forces and the last to put down
5 their rifles when ordered to surrender on April 9, 1942; and

6 WHEREAS, before being ordered to surrender, the men of the
7 200th coast artillery made a valiant stand in the face of
8 terrible odds, while suffering through months of enemy attack
9 with outmoded equipment; a scarcity of food, medicine and
10 ammunition; and diseases such as malaria, dysentery and
11 beriberi that ravaged them to utter exhaustion; and

12 WHEREAS, the men of the 200th coast artillery were
13 captured by Japanese forces on April 9, 1942 and, in an already
14 starved, exhausted and sickened state, they had to endure the
15 infamous Bataan death march, during which Japanese soldiers
16 forced the men of the 200th coast artillery to march for six
17 long days in scorching tropical heat while starving and
18 brutalizing the men along the way; and

19 WHEREAS, the courageous men of the 200th coast artillery
20 endured four years in prisoner of war camps, where they were
21 forced into slave labor and lost scores of their ranks to
22 starvation, disease and brutality; and

23 WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque holds an annual ceremony
24 at Bataan memorial park in Albuquerque, presented by the
25 Bataan-Corregidor memorial foundation in cooperation with the

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1 city of Albuquerque and the Filipino-American foundation of New
2 Mexico, to honor and remember the courageous men of the 200th
3 coast artillery; and

4 WHEREAS, the Bataan memorial park in Albuquerque was
5 originally dedicated on March 2, 1943 and the Bataan memorial
6 at the Bataan memorial park was dedicated on April 7, 2002 due
7 to the hard work and persistence of many individuals, including
8 survivors of the Bataan death march; and

9 WHEREAS, the city of Santa Fe holds an annual ceremony at
10 the Bataan memorial building in Santa Fe, hosted by the New
11 Mexico national guard, to honor and remember the courageous men
12 of the 200th coast artillery; and

13 WHEREAS, the ceremony in Santa Fe began in 1953 when
14 survivors of the Bataan death march would, for one day at the
15 state capitol, lower the American flag and raise a symbolic
16 white flag in its place; and

17 WHEREAS, White Sands missile range holds an annual Bataan
18 memorial death march, a challenging twenty-six mile trek
19 through the New Mexico desert, to honor and remember the
20 courageous men of the 200th coast artillery; and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state university Army reserve
22 officer training corps held the first Bataan memorial death
23 march in 1989, and in 1992, White Sands missile range and the
24 New Mexico national guard joined in the sponsorship and the
25 event was moved to the missile range; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Bataan memorial death march has been held
2 every year since 1989, with the exception of 2003 due to the
3 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has grown from one hundred to
4 over twelve thousand marchers; and

5 WHEREAS, April 9, 2012 marks the seventieth anniversary of
6 the Bataan death march;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to designate
9 the month of April 2012 as "Bataan Memorial Month" in the
10 state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the men of the 200th coast
12 artillery be given eternal gratitude for their courage and
13 sacrifice in enduring the infamous Bataan death march; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that eternal gratitude also be
15 given to the city of Albuquerque, the Bataan-Corregidor
16 memorial foundation, the Filipino-American foundation of New
17 Mexico, the city of Santa Fe, the New Mexico national guard,
18 White Sands missile range and the New Mexico state university
19 Army reserve officer training corps for their dedication to the
20 memory of the men of the 200th coast artillery; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the governor, the city of Albuquerque, the
23 Bataan-Corregidor memorial foundation, the Filipino-American
24 foundation of New Mexico, the city of Santa Fe, the New Mexico
25 national guard, White Sands missile range and the New Mexico

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1 state university Army reserve officer training corps.

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