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1 artillery, was the first to fight but lacked support because
2 the country was not fully prepared; and

3 WHEREAS, the second battalion, the 120th combat engineer
4 battalion, together with the southwestern 45th infantry, saw
5 the most days of direct combat, five hundred eleven, of any
6 division in the Pacific or Atlantic theaters; and

7 WHEREAS, the 120th combat engineer battalion was the first
8 national guard unit federalized to go to Bataan; and

9 WHEREAS, the 45th infantry had the largest number of
10 Hispanics and Native Americans of any division; and

11 WHEREAS, the 45th infantry was lauded by General George
12 Patton as the first to serve under his command, and Marshall
13 Kesselring, overall German commander in the Mediterranean area,
14 said that it was one of the two best United States divisions
15 against which he had ever fought; and

16 WHEREAS, the third battalion, the 804th tank destroyer
17 battalion, saw honorable action in Italy and Germany; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico veterans have served with distinction
19 throughout the state's history, and there are currently over
20 one hundred ninety thousand veterans in the state; and

21 WHEREAS, the community of Las Vegas voted to preserve the
22 old armory building and create the Las Vegas veterans center in
23 order to serve the needs of northern New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, there is a coordinated initiative, through the
25 Las Vegas veterans committee, to use the "old armory building"

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1 as the Las Vegas armory center for education, training,
2 housing, medical and social services and general economic
3 development for veterans; and

4 WHEREAS, the community of Las Vegas desires to hold a
5 groundbreaking ceremony for the Las Vegas armory center during
6 the week of the inauguration of the World War II memorial,
7 scheduled for Memorial Day 2004;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the work of the Las Vegas
10 veterans committee to preserve and restore the "old armory
11 building" and convert it into the Las Vegas armory center; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Vegas veterans
13 committee be requested to work with the New Mexico
14 congressional delegation, the New Mexico veterans' service
15 commission, an appropriate interim legislative committee and
16 the legislative finance committee to complete, by October 31,
17 2003, a study of the feasibility of obtaining the funding that
18 would be needed to make the Las Vegas armory center a reality;
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the Las Vegas veterans committee, the New Mexico
22 congressional delegation, the New Mexico veterans' service
23 commission, the New Mexico legislative council and the
24 legislative finance committee.