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HOUSE MEMORIAL 16

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO
STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CEMETERY AT
THE VIETNAM VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN ANGEL FIRE.

WHEREAS, Victor Westphall, along with his wife Jeanne and
younger son Douglas, began building a memorial shortly after
his son Victor David Westphall was killed in Vietnam in 1968;
and

WHEREAS, they employed the services of Ted Luna to design
a structure with gentle curves, more a sculpture than a
conventional building; and

WHEREAS, the memorial is an enduring symbol not only of
the tragedy of David's death but of the tragedy and futility of
war; and

WHEREAS, since its opening in 1971, the memorial has

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1 gained in attention, and visitors now number about seventy
2 thousand annually; and

3 WHEREAS, the memorial was the first memorial dedicated to
4 all Vietnam veterans; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico is proud to be the home of this
6 distinguished and distinctive symbol;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
9 States department of veterans affairs be requested to study the
10 feasibility of establishing a national cemetery at the Vietnam
11 veterans national memorial in Angel Fire; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of the United States department of
14 veterans affairs and the New Mexico congressional delegation.