

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 26

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

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Garcia

FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE THE
INTERIM MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the military and veterans' affairs committee was
created by statute in 2009 for a term of one year; and

WHEREAS, the committee was given various statutory duties,
including the direction to meet in geographically dispersed
areas of the state to conduct hearings relating to military
issues and veterans' issues; and

WHEREAS, the law requires that an annual report of the
findings and recommendations of the committee be presented to
the legislature for consideration, and it further requires
that recommendations be presented to the United States congress
and that regulatory recommendations be made to the federal
departments of veterans affairs and defense; and

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1 WHEREAS, the military and veterans' affairs committee has
2 met its statutory charge; and

3 WHEREAS, the committee met for a total of six days and
4 heard diverse testimony regarding the missions of the military
5 bases in New Mexico; health and wellness care; veterans'
6 homelessness; long-term care; higher education opportunities
7 for military personnel; transition issues for military
8 families, including education for military children; troop
9 deployment issues; and plans to appropriately honor and
10 recognize the services of New Mexico's active duty military and
11 veterans; and

12 WHEREAS, veterans and military personnel attended each and
13 every meeting of the military and veterans' affairs committee
14 and expressed genuine gratitude for the interest and attention
15 being given to their concerns by members of the legislature;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico remains actively engaged in military
18 action in two wars, with deployments regularly occurring to
19 Iraq and Afghanistan; and

20 WHEREAS, while many of the needs of New Mexico's more than
21 eighteen thousand veterans have been identified by the military
22 and veterans' affairs committee, viable solutions are not yet
23 fully developed; and

24 WHEREAS, there are issues that have been identified but
25 lack resolution and cannot be legislatively addressed in a

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1 short session of the legislature; and

2 WHEREAS, issues that bear further study and consideration
3 include a recommendation for the adoption of a compact, as has
4 been adopted in twenty-six states, to ensure a seamless
5 transition into schools for the children of military families
6 who are transferred to New Mexico; the development of a
7 wellness center in Angel Fire; the progress and completion of a
8 museum to honor veterans; and the successful implementation at
9 New Mexico universities and colleges of the post-9/11 G.I.
10 bill, which promises to offer higher education opportunities to
11 many active duty military and veterans in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, not all military installations in the state have
13 been afforded an opportunity to showcase their facilities; and

14 WHEREAS, the military and veterans' affairs committee has
15 a growing appreciation for the contributions made to New Mexico
16 at all the military installations in the state, but it has had
17 only a superficial exposure to the vast importance of the
18 activities in which those installations are engaged; and

19 WHEREAS, the military and veterans' affairs committee is
20 committed to pursuing all available avenues to address the full
21 breadth of the needs of the military personnel and veterans in
22 New Mexico who are serving, or have honorably served, this
23 country and this state;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be

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1 requested to continue the interim military and veterans'
2 affairs committee; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the military and
4 veterans' affairs committee include consideration of
5 legislation to be proposed in the first session of the fiftieth
6 legislature; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
9 council.