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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 5

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Dianne Miller Hamilton

FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT, THE SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER NECESSARY ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF USING THE FORT BAYARD CAMPUS FOR A VETERANS POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY.

WHEREAS, the mission of the veterans' services department is to serve the veterans of this state; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the economic development department is to assist local businesses to develop, grow and enhance the economy of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the tourism department is to create, promote and develop tourism opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the southwest New Mexico council of governments

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1 commissioned a Fort Bayard preservation and development plan in
2 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, the department of health has vacated the
4 buildings and terminated its lease of Fort Bayard; and

5 WHEREAS, Fort Bayard is located in southwestern New Mexico
6 adjacent to the Gila national forest; and

7 WHEREAS, that site was chosen in 1863 for its springs and
8 its commanding view of the Apache war trails surrounding the
9 nearby mining camps; and

10 WHEREAS, Fort Bayard was designated a national historic
11 landmark in 2004; and

12 WHEREAS, the Fort Bayard campus is situated upon more than
13 four hundred sixty-five acres of pristine beauty with nineteen
14 natural springs; and

15 WHEREAS, the Fort Bayard campus offers an ideal quiet and
16 serene setting for veterans suffering from posttraumatic stress
17 disorder and traumatic brain injuries to heal and readjust to
18 civilian society;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans' services department be
21 requested to collaborate with the economic development
22 department, the tourism department, the southwest New Mexico
23 council of governments and other necessary organizations to
24 study the feasibility of using the Fort Bayard campus as a
25 veterans posttraumatic stress disorder treatment facility and

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1 that the findings of the study be presented to the interim
2 military and veterans' affairs committee by November 2011; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services, the
5 secretary of economic development, the secretary of tourism,
6 the governor and the southwest New Mexico council of
7 governments.

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