

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL
3 MANUEL ANTONIO CHAVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Antonio Chaves
6 distinguished himself in service to his state and his
7 country, and he is known as a hero of the battle of Glorieta
8 Pass; and

9 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves lived through a
10 significant era in the state's history, being born in 1818
11 during the Spanish colonial period, and he lived in New
12 Mexico during the period of Mexican rule and during the time
13 New Mexico was a territory of the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves served honorably in
15 the Mexican military before New Mexico was incorporated into
16 the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1860, Manuel Antonio Chaves became a
18 lieutenant colonel in the second New Mexico mounted
19 volunteers and fought for the union at the battle of Valverde
20 Ford; and

21 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves fought bravely at the
22 battle of Glorieta Pass on March 26-28, 1862; and

23 WHEREAS, as the leader of the second New Mexico mounted
24 volunteers, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves was chosen to guide his
25 forces to a confederate supply train; and

1 WHEREAS, this leadership enabled the union soldiers and
2 the Colorado and New Mexico volunteers to destroy the
3 confederate supply train, which forced the retreat of the
4 confederate forces to Texas and the end of confederate plans
5 to annex the New Mexico territory; and

6 WHEREAS, this victory became a turning point of the
7 Civil War and forever etched the battle of Glorieta Pass as
8 the "Gettysburg of the West"; and

9 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves spent his life after
10 the war as a rancher in the San Mateo mountains of New
11 Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves and his beautiful
13 wife, Vicenta Labadie Chaves, were renowned for their
14 generosity and hospitality and their embrace of traditional
15 southwestern values; and

16 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves and Vicenta were
17 buried in the chapel next to their hacienda before having
18 their resting place moved to a local cemetery; and

19 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Chaves is affectionately
20 known in New Mexico as "*El Leoncito*", or the "Little Lion" of
21 the southwest; and

22 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2018, during the one-hundred-
23 fifty-sixth commemoration of the battle of Glorieta Pass, a
24 plaque will be dedicated to the memory and honor of
25 Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Antonio Chaves and a contingent of

1 New Mexico volunteers who fought with others to spearhead a
2 union flanking movement at the battle of Glorieta Pass, which
3 ultimately caused the confederate forces to retreat to Texas
4 and to give up their effort to annex the entire west and
5 parts of northern Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, dedication festivities will be held at Pecos
7 national historical park to commemorate this important event;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
10 historical achievements and the significance of the life of
11 Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Antonio Chaves be recognized; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the friends of Pecos national historical park. = HM 110
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