

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY
EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY TO FORT BAYARD NATIONAL CEMETERY TO
RECEIVE FUNDS FROM THE VETERANS' NATIONAL CEMETERY FUND TO
PROVIDE A LASTING TRIBUTE TO ALL VETERANS OF NEW MEXICO.

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

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

WHEREAS, Fort Bayard national cemetery is a symbol of
New Mexico's shared history and the bravery of its great
leaders such as Apache Chief Geronimo and United States Army
General G. D. Bayard; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bayard national cemetery was established
in 1930 and became part of the national cemetery system in
1973, when its administration was transferred from the
department of the army to the department of veterans affairs;
and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, the state of New Mexico donated
just under four acres to the cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bayard national cemetery was placed on the
national register of historic places on July 7, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the veterans' national cemetery fund was created by the legislature to provide a lasting tribute to all veterans of New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans' services department be requested to study extending eligibility to Fort Bayard national cemetery to receive funds from the veterans' national cemetery fund and that the findings of the study be presented to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services and the governor.