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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez

FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR DECLARE MARCH 29, 2013 AS "VIETNAM
VETERANS DAY" IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1962, United States Army pilots
lifted more than one thousand south Vietnamese service members
over jungle and underbrush to capture a national liberation
front stronghold near Saigon; and

WHEREAS, Operation Chopper marked America's first combat
mission against the Viet Cong and the beginning of one of the
longest and most challenging wars; and

WHEREAS, through more than a decade of conflict that
tested the fabric of the nation, the service of men and women
in uniform stood true; and

WHEREAS, thousands returned home bearing shrapnel and
scars; more were burdened by the invisible wounds of

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1 posttraumatic stress disorder, agent orange and memories that
2 would never fade; and many of these men and women came home to
3 be shunned or neglected and to face treatment unbecoming their
4 courage and a welcome unworthy of their example; and

5 WHEREAS, America's veterans answered the country's call
6 and served with honor, and on March 29, 1973, the last United
7 States' troops left Vietnam, where more than fifty-eight
8 thousand laid down their lives in service to the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, fifty-one years later, we honor the sacrifice of
10 the more than three million Americans who served in Vietnam by
11 serving them as well as they served the country and by
12 reaffirming one of the most fundamental obligations to show all
13 who have worn the uniform of the United States the respect and
14 dignity that they deserve, and by paying tribute to the fallen,
15 the missing, the wounded, the millions who served and the
16 millions more who awaited their return; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States stands stronger for their
18 service, and their proud legacy is honored with deepest
19 gratitude;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare
22 March 29, 2013 "Vietnam Veterans Day" in the state of New
23 Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the office of the governor, the office of the

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1 lieutenant governor and the veterans' services department.

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