

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 26

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PASS A  
12 CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
13 SERVICE TO ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING THE  
14 SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS IN  
15 NEW MEXICO AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BATTLE OF  
16 GLORIETA PASS.

17  
18 WHEREAS, in January 1862, confederate general Henry  
19 Hopkins Sibley with a brigade of two thousand six hundred  
20 Texans invaded the territory of New Mexico with the intention  
21 of claiming the territory and the west for the confederacy; and

22 WHEREAS, the volunteers of the Texas confederate forces  
23 were victorious in defeating the union forces at the battle of  
24 Valverde on February 21, 1862 and shortly afterwards, on  
25 February 25, 1862, they captured Socorro and on March 7, 1862,

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1 Albuquerque was captured; and

2 WHEREAS, the confederate forces captured Santa Fe on March  
3 10, 1862, the capital having been moved earlier by New Mexico  
4 territorial governor, Henry Connelly, to Las Vegas, New Mexico;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, following these battlefield successes, the Texas  
7 confederate forces planned to conquer Fort Union and then march  
8 to Colorado to take over the mines located there; and

9 WHEREAS, from there, the forces intended to form an  
10 alliance with the Mormons and together take over the gold  
11 fields of California, which would have provided much needed  
12 capital for the confederacy; and

13 WHEREAS, the conquest of California would additionally  
14 provide two sorely needed ports, free of union blockades; and

15 WHEREAS, the fulfillment of their plans would sever the  
16 western territories from the Union and strengthen the position  
17 of the confederacy; and

18 WHEREAS, they next planned to take over the Mexican states  
19 of lower California, Sonora and Chihuahua, which had the  
20 potential to gain much needed recognition by foreign countries;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the Texas confederate forces were met in a  
23 skirmish and fought two battles with the Union forces at  
24 Glorieta Pass on March 26 to 28, 1862; and

25 WHEREAS, even though the confederate forces were

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1 victorious in these two battles, they were forced to abandon  
2 their dream of taking over Fort Union and conquering the west  
3 when their supply of sixty to eighty wagons, loaded with  
4 weapons, medical supplies, food and blankets, was burned and  
5 four hundred mules and horses were captured by a contingent of  
6 United States regular army forces from Fort Union and  
7 volunteers from Colorado and New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, after this tremendous loss, the confederate  
9 Texans had no other choice but to abandon General Sibley's  
10 dream and retreat back to Santa Fe, then Albuquerque and  
11 eventually out of New Mexico and back to Texas; and

12 WHEREAS, this turning point in the confederate campaign in  
13 New Mexico, the "Battle of Glorieta Pass", is referred to by  
14 some historians as "The Gettysburg of the West"; and

15 WHEREAS, although the loss of men killed, wounded or  
16 missing in the Civil War battles fought in New Mexico may seem  
17 insignificant compared to the carnage of the Civil War battles  
18 that were fought in the east and south, the importance and  
19 significance of this battle cannot be overstated, as the  
20 ultimate outcome helped hold the union together and assured its  
21 survival in what we now know as the United States of America;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE  
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation be  
24 requested to introduce a congressional resolution requesting  
25 the United States postal service to issue a commemorative stamp

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1 honoring the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Battle of  
2 Glorieta Pass in New Mexico and recognizing the importance of  
3 the Battle of Glorieta Pass; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker  
6 of the United States house of representatives, the president of  
7 the United States senate, the members of the New Mexico  
8 congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States  
9 department of the interior and the nonprofit organization, the  
10 friends of the Pecos national historical park.