



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 10, as amended

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE ZACHARY J. COOK AND REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS J. KINTIGH



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY
3 TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES TO ACCOMMODATE THE BURIAL
4 OF VETERANS AND ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE FORT STANTON
5 CEMETERY.

6
7 WHEREAS, on November 10, 2010, the board of regents of
8 the museum of New Mexico voted to close the Fort Stanton
9 cemetery to future burials of all but deceased merchant
10 marines, spouses of merchant marines or individuals associated
11 with the Fort Stanton hospital prior to its closure in 1954;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, this decision effectively precludes interment
14 in the cemetery of honorably discharged veterans and their
15 eligible family members; and

16 WHEREAS, this decision closes the Fort Stanton cemetery
17 to dependents and veterans who have a spouse already interred
18 in the cemetery and who have a burial plot reserved for future
19 use by the living spouse or veteran; and

20 WHEREAS, out of respect for those veterans already
21 buried at the Fort Stanton cemetery and in consideration of
22 the growing shortage of burial sites for veterans in the state
23 and nation, volunteers who maintain the cemetery have
24 coordinated the burial of veterans and eligible family members
25 with several state agencies for the past several years, with

1 very little cost to the state; and

2 WHEREAS, the Fort Stanton cemetery has been under the
3 authority of a number of state agencies, including the
4 corrections department and the veterans' services department,
5 since the federal government deeded the property to the state
6 in 1953; and

7 WHEREAS, the first military burial at the cemetery was
8 in 1918, and veterans and their dependents have continuously
9 been buried in the cemetery since it has been owned by the
10 state of New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, the cemetery is included in the national
12 register of historic places; and

13 WHEREAS, the cemetery is currently the responsibility of
14 the state monuments division of the cultural affairs
15 department;

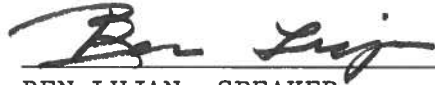
16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural
18 affairs department be requested to conduct a study to
19 determine appropriate procedures to accommodate the burial of
20 veterans and eligible family members at the Fort Stanton
21 cemetery; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cultural affairs
23 department consult with the veterans' services department to
24 identify and consider special needs and desires regarding
25 burial of veterans in New Mexico; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study explore the
2 potential for federally assisted expansion of the Fort Stanton
3 cemetery to accommodate burial of veterans and their eligible
4 family members other than merchant marines, family members of
5 merchant marines and individuals associated with the Fort
6 Stanton hospital prior to its closure in 1954; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the name of the cemetery be
8 officially changed to "Fort Stanton State Veteran's Cemetery";
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs and the
12 secretary of veterans' services.



BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES