



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE MEMORIAL 35

---

---

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE BEN LUJAN

REPRESENTATIVES LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA,  
JIM R. TRUJILLO, ANTONIO "MOE" MAESTAS,  
RICHARD D. VIGIL, RAY BEGAYE, JOSÉ CAMPOS,  
ELIAS BARELA, MIGUEL P. GARCÍA,  
THOMAS A. GARCIA, DEBBIE A. RODELLA,  
ANDREW J. BARRERAS, W. KEN MARTINEZ,  
SHERYL WILLIAMS STAPLETON AND  
JEFF STEINBORN



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
3 INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO  
4 BATAAN VETERANS.

5  
6 WHEREAS, beginning December 8, 1941, in the critical early  
7 hours of World War II, the 200th coast artillery of the New  
8 Mexico national guard was in the first line of defense in the  
9 United States commonwealth territory of the Philippines  
10 against the attack launched by Japanese forces immediately  
11 after Japan's December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, during the 1941 Japanese invasion of the  
14 Philippines, the 200th coast artillery of the New Mexico  
15 national guard stood between the invading Japanese forces and  
16 the freedom of the American and Filipino peoples; and

17 WHEREAS, the 200th coast artillery was the first to fire  
18 upon Japanese forces and the last to put down their rifles  
19 when ordered to surrender on April 9, 1942; and

20 WHEREAS, before being ordered to surrender, the men of the  
21 200th coast artillery made a valiant stand in the face of  
22 terrible odds, while suffering through months of enemy attack  
23 with outmoded equipment; a scarcity of food, medicine and  
24 ammunition; and diseases such as malaria, dysentery and  
25 beriberi that ravaged them to utter exhaustion; and

1           WHEREAS, the men of the 200th coast artillery were  
2 captured by Japanese forces on April 9, 1942 and, in an  
3 already starved, exhausted and sickened state, they had to  
4 endure the infamous Bataan death march, during which Japanese  
5 soldiers forced the men of the 200th coast artillery to march  
6 for six long days in scorching tropical heat while starving  
7 and brutalizing the men along the way; and

8           WHEREAS, the courageous men of the 200th coast artillery  
9 endured four years in prisoner of war camps, where they were  
10 forced into slave labor and lost scores of their ranks to  
11 starvation, disease and brutality; and

12           WHEREAS, the men who returned home contributed  
13 immeasurably to the country's growth as members of the  
14 "greatest generation"; and

15           WHEREAS, the 200th coast artillery received four  
16 presidential unit citations and the Philippine presidential  
17 citation for their valorous defense of the American and  
18 Filipino peoples; and

19           WHEREAS, the congressional gold medal is considered the  
20 nation's highest civilian award and the most distinguished  
21 award given by the United States congress to citizens who  
22 represent the best characteristics of the American people;

23           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of  
25 the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to

1 introduce legislation to award the congressional gold medal to  
2 the men of the 200th coast artillery of the New Mexico  
3 national guard; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional  
6 delegation and to Governor Richardson.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/11/01 BY SP-10

S/ BEN LUJAN  
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS  
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOV 1981 11 24

NOV 1981 11 24