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Daniel "Danny" Mayfield  
Commissioner, District 1

Virginia Vigil  
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya  
Commissioner, District 3



Kathy Holian  
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics  
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller  
County Manager

# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 8, 2011  
**TO:** Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners  
**FR:**  Rita B. Maes, Constituent Services Liaison  
**RE:** Resolution Endorsing A Commemorative Stamp Honoring The Battle Of Glorieta Pass

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## **Item and Issue:**

The Friends of the Pecos National Historical Park is submitting an application to the United States Postal Service to consider a commemorative stamp honoring the sesquicentennial (One hundred and fifty year) anniversary of the Battle of Glorieta Pass.

## **Background Summary:**

This resolution mirrors Senate Joint Memorial 26 and the City of Santa Fe's Resolution in support of the grand significance of the 1862 Battle of Glorieta Pass and urges the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico.

## **Action Recommendation:**

Commissioners Vigil and Holian respectfully bring forth this resolution for the Boards review and consideration.

1                                   SANTA FE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2011- \_\_\_\_

2                                   **INTRODUCED BY:**

3                                   **Commissioner Vigil**

4                                   **Commissioner Holian**

5                                   **A RESOLUTION**

6                   **Requesting The United States Postal Service To Issue A Commemorative Stamp**  
7                   **Honoring The Sesquicentennial Anniversary Of The Battle Of Glorieta Pass In New**  
8                   **Mexico And Recognizing The Importance Of The Battle Of Glorieta Pass**

9  
10                   **WHEREAS**, in January 1862, Confederate General Henry Hopkins Sibley with a  
11 brigade of two thousand six hundred volunteer Texans invaded the territory of New Mexico with  
12 the intention of claiming the territory and the West for the Confederacy; and

13                   **WHEREAS**, the Texas Confederate forces were victorious in defeating the Union forces  
14 at the Battle of Valverde on February 21, 1862, capturing Socorro, and then on March 7, 1862,  
15 capturing Albuquerque; and

16                   **WHEREAS**, the Confederate forces captured Santa Fe on March 10, 1862, however, the  
17 capital had earlier been moved by the New Mexico Territorial Governor, Henry Connelly, to Las  
18 Vegas, New Mexico; and

19                   **WHEREAS**, following these battlefield successes, the Texas Confederate forces  
20 planned to conquer Fort Union and then march to Colorado to take over the mines; and

21                   **WHEREAS**, from there, the forces intended to form an alliance with the Mormons and  
22 together take over the gold fields of California, which would have provided much needed capital  
23 for the Confederacy; and

24                   **WHEREAS**, the conquest of California would additionally provide two sorely needed  
25 ports, free of Union blockades; and

26                   **WHEREAS**, the fulfillment of these plans would sever the western territories from the  
27 Union and strengthen the position of the Confederacy; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Confederates next planned to take over the Mexican states of lower  
2 California, Sonora and Chihuahua, which had the potential to gain much needed recognition by  
3 foreign countries; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Texas Confederate forces were met in a skirmish and fought two battles  
5 with the Union forces at Glorieta Pass from March 26 to 28, 1862; and

6           **WHEREAS**, even though the Confederate forces were victorious in these two battles,  
7 they were forced to abandon their dream of taking over Fort Union and conquering the West  
8 when their sixty to eighty wagons, loaded with weapons, medical supplies, food and blankets,  
9 were burned and four hundred mules and horses were captured by a contingent of volunteers from  
10 Colorado and New Mexico; and

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

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

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

21           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Santa Fe Board of County  
22 Commissioners that the New Mexico Congressional delegation be requested to introduce a  
23 Congressional resolution requesting the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative  
24 stamp honoring the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico  
25 and recognizing the importance of the Battle of Glorieta Pass; and

1 Be it further resolved that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
2 United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the  
3 United States Senate, the members of the New Mexico Congressional delegation, the Secretary of  
4 the United States Department of the Interior and the nonprofit organization, the Friends of the  
5 Pecos National Historical Park.

6 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

7  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 CHAIR, Virginia Vigil

10 ATTEST:

11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 VALERIE ESPINOZA, SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

13 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

14   
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 STEVE ROSS, SANTA FE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
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