

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1182

To authorize the use of flat grave markers to extend the useful life of the Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico, and to allow more veterans the honor and choice of being buried in the cemetery.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 27, 1999

Mr. DOMENICI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the use of flat grave markers to extend the useful life of the Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico, and to allow more veterans the honor and choice of being buried in the cemetery.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO USE FLAT GRAVE MARKERS AT**
4 **SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY, NEW MEX-**
5 **ICO.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

1 (1) The men and women who have served in the
2 Armed Forces have made immeasurable sacrifices
3 for the principles of freedom and liberty that make
4 this Nation unique in all civilization.

5 (2) The service of veterans has been vital to the
6 history of the Nation, and the sacrifices made by
7 veterans and their families should not be forgotten.

8 (3) These veterans at the very least deserve
9 every opportunity to be buried in a National Ceme-
10 tery of their choosing.

11 (4) The Santa Fe National Cemetery in New
12 Mexico opened in 1868 and was designated a Na-
13 tional Cemetery in April 1875.

14 (5) The Santa Fe National Cemetery now has
15 77 acres with almost 27,000 graves most of which
16 are marked by upright headstones.

17 (6) The Santa Fe National Cemetery will run
18 out of space to provide for casketed burials at the
19 end of 2000 unless Congress acts to allow the use
20 of flat grave markers to extend the useful life of the
21 cemetery until 2008.

22 (b) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding section
23 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary

- 1 of Veterans Affairs may provide for flat grave markers
- 2 at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico.

