



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Governor Bill Richardson Announces \$2.4 Million State Capital Outlay Investment in Veterans Services

Funding includes \$350,000 for New Mexico Veterans' Memorial in Santa Fe

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services will receive up to \$2.4 million in capital funding this year for critical projects. The Governor made the announcement today at a news conference in Santa fe. Here are Governor Richardson's prepared remarks:

"It is an honor to have a number of New Mexico military veterans with us today.

I have been working closely with Secretary John Garcia, a Viet Nam Veteran, to keep my promise to New Mexico's 200-thousand Veterans. To make sure they are not forgotten, and to make sure Veterans have a permanent place at the Governor's Cabinet table. I am pleased to say this year's capital budget will allow us to continue to protect and advance the interests of our veterans, with a total of **two-point-four million dollars** available for key veteran's projects:

- \$350,000 for the construction of the New Mexico Viet Nam Veterans' Memorial here in Santa Fe. Our goal is to break ground by Memorial Day, and open the memorial in November, on Veteran's Day.
- \$428,000 for construction, improvement, or renovations to other Veteran's memorials around the state, including Farmington, Las Cruces, Gallup, Taos, and Mora.
- \$1.1 million for critical improvements and repairs to the Veterans' Home in T or C.

- An additional \$200,000 for continued improvements to the T or C Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial, which we opened last summer.
- \$176,000 for Navajo Veterans' Affairs, including buildings, vehicles, and equipment.

I also want to mention that Secretary Garcia, and the Veteran's Services Department, will be opening an office at the Viet Nam Veterans' Memorial in Angel Fire. We are also continuing our discussions on the possibility of the state taking over operation of the memorial."

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