



Rep. Herrell Introduces Bipartisan Legislation to Name Las Cruces Bataan Memorial VA Clinic

WASHINGTON - Rep. Yvette Herrell has introduced legislation to rename the Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic in Las Cruces, New Mexico the "Las Cruces Bataan Memorial Clinic" in honor of the brave New Mexican servicemen who heroically resisted the Japanese Army and were forced to march over 60 miles on the Bataan Peninsula in April 1942, in what became known to history as the Bataan Death March.



"The brutal legacy of the Bataan Death March is only matched by the unbowed spirit of New Mexico's servicemen," said Rep Herrell. "Of the 75,000 Allied troops stationed on the Bataan

Peninsula, 1,816 were from New Mexico, by far the most per capita of any state. Of these men, 829 were killed in battle, a POW camp, or later died as a result of their mistreatment. Today, we have the opportunity to honor their sacrifice and enshrine their memory forever. I am proud that this legislation is supported by local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans, and the Las Cruces Veterans Advisory Board."

"Bataan soldiers remind us of the courage and patriotism that all veterans share, said co-sponsor Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM). "Renaming the Las Cruces VA clinic as the Bataan Memorial Clinic honors their undaunted heroism in the face of unthinkable conditions."