



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNDER SECRETARY FOR MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

SEP 16 2026

Brian Moya
Interim City Manager
City of Santa Fe
200 Lincoln Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Moya:

Thank you for the City of Santa Fe's continued work with the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the proposed donation and relocation of the Soldiers' Monument to Santa Fe National Cemetery.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) reviewed the City's proposal under applicable law, regulations, and NCA Handbook 3160.03, Processing Donations of Non-Standard Commemorative Works and Carillons. Based on that review, NCA will not accept the monument for relocation to Santa Fe National Cemetery.

NCA's decision is based on the monument's condition, the extensive reconstruction and restoration it would require, the complexity of transporting and installing it safely, its suitability for placement in an active national cemetery, and the long-term responsibility VA would assume for its care, preservation, repair, and interpretation. Taken together, these considerations do not support accepting the monument as part of NCA's burial and memorial mission.

NCA also recognizes the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer's January 22, 2025, determination concerning the effect of removing the monument from the Santa Fe Plaza. That determination addresses the City's historic preservation process and identifies additional steps and alternatives the City must consider as it decides the monument's future. It provides relevant context, but NCA's decision rests on whether accepting and maintaining the monument at Santa Fe National Cemetery would be appropriate and sustainable.

For these reasons, NCA has concluded that accepting the Soldiers' Monument is not in the Administration's best interest. This decision closes NCA's consideration of the City's proposal.

We appreciate the time and effort City officials have devoted to this matter. We respect the City's responsibility to determine the monument's future in accordance with applicable court decisions and historic preservation requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam B. Brown", is written over a horizontal line.

Samuel B. Brown