VETERANS FOR PEACE Memorial for the Fallen March 20, 2005

2:00 – 3:00 рм Santa Fe Plaza

Invocation and Reading from the Koran by Karima Alev. Commemoration of civilian dead in Afghanistan and Iraq. Prayers by other clergy. Middle Eastern contemplative music.

3:00 – 4:00 PM Procession

to the National Cemetery with Veterans for Peace banner display of the faces and names of service persons killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

4:00 – 5:00 PM National Cemetery*

Commemorative Address by Craig Barnes Memorial for the Fallen

*See back of flyer for latest update



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*Veterans for Peace denied access to the National Cemetery

At the time of the printing of this flyer, it was still not certain where the ceremony honoring fellow service persons killed in Afghanistan and Iraq will take place—whether within the cemetery or on the grassy area outside the main entrance.

The reason for the uncertainty is that the Director of the Santa Fe National Cemetery was instructed by the Veteran's Administration Regional Counsel to reject our proposed memorial on the basis that the event is "partisan." We appealed this decision to the Regional Counsel, but the appeal was denied. When asked on what basis the determination of "partisan" was made, the Regional Counsel provided no evidence but simply stated it was his opinion. He said if we disagreed we could take the issue to District Court.

Congressman Udall's staff was informed of this and responded immediately and affirmatively. They are now investigating the decision. In addition, the ACLU is considering the case. But at this point the outcome is uncertain. Nonetheless, we will have the procession from the Plaza to the cemetery, whether we end up inside or outside the cemetery grounds.