

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALBUQUERQUE NATIVE  
3 JAMES BORREGO, THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION'S FIRST  
4 HISPANIC HEAD COACH.

5  
6 WHEREAS, in May 2018, James Borrego pushed through a  
7 barrier when the Charlotte hornets named him the first  
8 Hispanic full-time head coach in the national basketball  
9 association's seventy-two year history; and

10 WHEREAS, James is the eleventh head coach in the history  
11 of the Michael Jordan-owned franchise; and

12 WHEREAS, March is the final full month of the national  
13 basketball association's regular season, but it also marks the  
14 beginning of Éne-Bé-A, the league's annual celebration and  
15 recognition of Latin American heritage and culture; and

16 WHEREAS, for James, it is an opportunity to reflect on  
17 his own background and the different backgrounds of other  
18 players as well; and

19 WHEREAS, James' family is of Mexican descent and three  
20 generations removed from arriving in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, James was raised by a single mother, Lydia, in  
22 Albuquerque and is an Albuquerque academy graduate, where he  
23 led the academy to a pair of state championships; and

24 WHEREAS, James earned a bachelor's degree in English and  
25 a master's degree in leadership studies from the university of

1 San Diego; and

2 WHEREAS, James has said that growing up in the  
3 southwest, he rarely dealt with any type of exclusion because  
4 of his background and did not feel like opportunities were  
5 limited because of it; and

6 WHEREAS, James credits basketball with helping him  
7 connect with kids from other cultures; and

8 WHEREAS, James played three seasons with the San Diego  
9 toreros and, during his senior season in 2000-2001, he was  
10 named to the west coast conference all-academic team; and

11 WHEREAS, James began his coaching career with his alma  
12 mater as the assistant coach with the toreros from 2001 to  
13 2003 before going to the national basketball association; and

14 WHEREAS, prior to being named the head coach for the  
15 Charlotte hornets, James was the assistant coach of the  
16 San Antonio spurs under Gregg Popovich for three seasons; and

17 WHEREAS, James began his fifteen years of experience in  
18 the national basketball association as a video coordinator  
19 for the spurs during the 2003-2004 season; and

20 WHEREAS, James has also been an assistant coach with the  
21 New Orleans hornets and the Orlando magic; and

22 WHEREAS, James served as the Orlando magic's interim  
23 head coach for the final thirty games of the 2014-2015 season  
24 before returning to the San Antonio spurs in June 2015; and

25 WHEREAS, James has stated that he is confident in the

1 coaching foundation he developed during his time in  
2 San Antonio, Orlando and New Orleans and is ready to get to  
3 work with his Charlotte team; and

4 WHEREAS, James recognizes his role as a trailblazer and  
5 hopes that his story resonates with people of all cultures  
6 and backgrounds; and

7 WHEREAS, James is living proof that, regardless of  
8 origin or ethnicity, anything is possible with the right  
9 combination of hard work and resiliency;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Albuquerque native James Borrego,  
12 head coach of the Charlotte hornets, be recognized and  
13 congratulated as the national basketball association's first  
14 Hispanic head coach; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to James Borrego and Lydia Borrego. \_\_\_\_\_