

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 130

2 54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALBUQUERQUE NATIVE JAMES
12 BORREGO, THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION'S FIRST HISPANIC
13 HEAD COACH.

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15 WHEREAS, in May 2018, James Borrego pushed through a
16 barrier when the Charlotte hornets named him the first Hispanic
17 full-time head coach in the national basketball association's
18 seventy-two year history; and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, for James, it is an opportunity to reflect on his

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1 own background and the different backgrounds of other players
2 as well; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, James earned a bachelor's degree in English and a
9 master's degree in leadership studies from the university of
10 San Diego; and

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

15 WHEREAS, James credits basketball with helping him connect
16 with kids from other cultures; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, James has stated that he is confident in the
10 coaching foundation he developed during his time in San
11 Antonio, Orlando and New Orleans and is ready to get to work
12 with his Charlotte team; and

13 WHEREAS, James recognizes his role as a trailblazer and
14 hopes that his story resonates with people of all cultures and
15 backgrounds; and

16 WHEREAS, James is living proof that, regardless of origin
17 or ethnicity, anything is possible with the right combination
18 of hard work and resiliency;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that Albuquerque native James Borrego, head coach
21 of the Charlotte hornets, be recognized and congratulated as
22 the national basketball association's first Hispanic head
23 coach; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
25 transmitted to James Borrego and Lydia Borrego.

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