

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 6, 2023 "BERNALILLO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
3 LIEUTENANT MATTHEW KING DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
4 AND HONORING HIS COURAGEOUS SACRIFICE.
5

6 WHEREAS, Bernalillo county fire department lieutenant
7 Matthew King embodied everything a firefighter aspires to be:
8 an example of courage, dedication and sacrifice; and

9 WHEREAS, as a rescue specialist with the Bernalillo
10 county fire department, Lieutenant King accepted the
11 challenges and dangers of the career he had embraced; and

12 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King grew up in Albuquerque and was
13 a graduate of Eldorado high school; and

14 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King began his firefighting career
15 in 2000 as a volunteer with the Corrales fire department,
16 followed by employment with Albuquerque ambulance service and
17 also worked at times for the Los Ranchos de Albuquerque fire
18 department, the Sandoval county fire department and the Rio
19 Rancho fire and rescue department; and

20 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King began his career with the
21 Bernalillo county fire department in August 2011, and he was
22 promoted to lieutenant in January 2020; and

23 WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as a rescue
24 specialist, Lieutenant King was an emergency medical services
25 educator and served in the training division; and

1 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King's life of public service was
2 cut short on July 16, 2022 when he was one of four public
3 safety officers killed in a helicopter crash south of Las
4 Vegas, New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King was on board the Bernalillo
6 county sheriff's office metro two helicopter with a crew
7 assisting with efforts to contain the east mesa fire; and

8 WHEREAS, the crew had been making water drops from the
9 helicopter prior to the crash, which happened during the
10 flight back to Albuquerque; and

11 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King survived the initial crash,
12 called 911 and was on the line for thirty minutes trying to
13 direct first responders to the site before his death; and

14 WHEREAS, to honor Lieutenant King's service, bravery and
15 sacrifice, a community gathering to say final goodbyes was
16 held on August 1, 2022 at Tingley coliseum; and

17 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King's funeral was filled with heavy
18 emotions as friends and colleagues recalled the impact
19 Lieutenant King had on their lives; and

20 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King was described as a man who
21 taught others how to laugh during the good times and the bad
22 times and served as an amazing mentor for how to live a good
23 life; and

24 WHEREAS, during the funeral, Lieutenant King was given
25 the highest award by the Bernalillo county fire department,

1 the medal of honor, and his helmet was presented to his
2 colleagues and then to his family; and

3 WHEREAS, fellow firefighters lined the streets to honor
4 their fallen brother; and

5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King was also given a fitting final
6 dispatch, and a final bell toll was rung and the recorded
7 final dispatch was played at the conclusion of the funeral;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King is survived by his wife,
10 Audrey; his son, Aedden; and his daughter, Kyra; and

11 WHEREAS, Lieutenant King leaves a legacy as a courageous
12 public servant who was always guided by his moral compass;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 6,
15 2023 be declared "Bernalillo County Fire Department
16 Lieutenant Matthew King Day" in the house of representatives
17 and that Lieutenant King be honored for his courageous
18 sacrifice; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the family of Lieutenant Matthew King.

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