

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING MARCH 3, 2023 "NEW MEXICO TEACHER OF THE YEAR DAY"
3 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, the New Mexico teacher of the year program
6 annually recognizes one teacher nominated by the eighty-nine
7 school districts, charter schools and United States bureau of
8 Indian education schools to represent New Mexico locally and
9 nationally every year for more than fifty years; and

10 WHEREAS, Tara Hughes, a special education and pre-
11 kindergarten teacher at Nye early childhood center with Santa
12 Fe public schools, has been named the 2023 New Mexico teacher
13 of the year by the public education department; and

14 WHEREAS, Tara Hughes is the first pre-kindergarten
15 teacher to be recognized as the New Mexico teacher of the
16 year; and

17 WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes has
18 advocated for the importance of high-quality early childhood
19 education; and

20 WHEREAS, neurodiversity is celebrated not only in the
21 classroom, but also in the hearts of friendships that develop
22 through inclusive settings and opportunities for peer-to-peer
23 learning; and

24 WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes has
25 represented the teaching profession and amplified the

1 importance of early childhood education to help all children
2 develop necessary life skills and tools no matter who they
3 are or where they come from; and

4 WHEREAS, Tara Hughes has supported and elevated families
5 to help them understand that families are children's first
6 teachers and their voices are powerful; and

7 WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes possesses
8 an exemplary ability to respect and honor student language
9 choices and provides key parts of her lessons in English,
10 Spanish and American sign language; and

11 WHEREAS, Tara Hughes serves New Mexico schools with the
12 goal of ensuring that students are kind, happy, healthy and
13 feel a sense of belonging; and

14 WHEREAS, Tara was quoted as saying: "As students
15 continue on their journey, I wish for their love of learning
16 to grow as they inspire curiosity and be creative thinkers.
17 They have the power to be catalysts for change using the
18 strength of their own language"; and

19 WHEREAS, Tara Hughes' parents, Patricia and Kenny
20 Hughes, and her husband, Joshua Johns, were integral to
21 Tara's success and deserve special honors; and

22 WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes brightens
23 every room she walks into with the latest dinosaur trends as
24 she uplifts the youngest learners, mentors fellow educators
25 from every walk of life and supports families in raising the

1 future of New Mexico, the country and the world;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Tara Hughes
4 be recognized and honored as the recipient of the 2023 New
5 Mexico teacher of the year award; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that March 3, 2023 be declared
7 "New Mexico Teacher of the Year Day" in the house of
8 representatives and that teachers across this great state be
9 celebrated and appreciated for their tremendous efforts in
10 such important and challenging work; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to Tara Hughes, the secretary of public education,
13 the superintendent of Santa Fe public schools and the
14 principal of Nye early childhood center. _____

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