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HOUSE MEMORIAL 77

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Andrea Romero and Tara L. Lujan and Linda Serrato and
Reena Szczepanski

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes has

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1 advocated for the importance of high-quality early childhood
2 education; and

3 WHEREAS, neurodiversity is celebrated not only in the
4 classroom, but also in the hearts of friendships that develop
5 through inclusive settings and opportunities for peer-to-peer
6 learning; and

7 WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes has
8 represented the teaching profession and amplified the
9 importance of early childhood education to help all children
10 develop necessary life skills and tools no matter who they are
11 or where they come from; and

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

15 WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes possesses an
16 exemplary ability to respect and honor student language choices
17 and provides key parts of her lessons in English, Spanish and
18 American sign language; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Tara was quoted as saying: "As students continue
23 on their journey, I wish for their love of learning to grow as
24 they inspire curiosity and be creative thinkers. They have the
25 power to be catalysts for change using the strength of their

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1 own language"; and

2 WHEREAS, Tara Hughes' parents, Patricia and Kenny Hughes,
3 and her husband, Joshua Johns, were integral to Tara's success
4 and deserve special honors; and

5 WHEREAS, 2023 teacher of the year Tara Hughes brightens
6 every room she walks into with the latest dinosaur trends as
7 she uplifts the youngest learners, mentors fellow educators
8 from every walk of life and supports families in raising the
9 future of New Mexico, the country and the world;

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that March 3, 2023 be declared "New
15 Mexico Teacher of the Year Day" in the house of representatives
16 and that teachers across this great state be celebrated and
17 appreciated for their tremendous efforts in such important and
18 challenging work; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to Tara Hughes, the secretary of public education,
21 the superintendent of Santa Fe public schools and the principal
22 of Nye early childhood center.