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HOUSE MEMORIAL 98

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Paul C. Bandy and Rod Montoya and James R.J. Strickler
and Sharon Clahchischilliage

A MEMORIAL

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF THOMAS HILL AND KATHLEEN "KATIE"
POTTER IN THE AZTEC HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTINGS.

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2017, a disturbed shooter entered
Aztec high school and took the lives of students Francisco
"Paco" Fernandez and Casey Jordan Marquez before fatally
shooting himself; and

WHEREAS, the death toll would have been much higher if not
for the bravery, courage and quick response of many people; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Hill and Kathleen "Katie" Potter were at
the forefront of responders; and

WHEREAS, after encountering the shooter, custodian Thomas
Hill sent out a radio alert of an active shooter to
administrators, teachers and students so that the school could
quickly go into lockdown; and

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1 WHEREAS, substitute teacher Kathleen "Katie" Potter
2 reacted quickly to the lockdown warning, gathering her
3 seventeen students in a small office next to the computer lab,
4 pushing a sofa against the door as a barricade and directing
5 her students to get down on the floor; and

6 WHEREAS, the shooter entered the computer lab and began
7 firing into the walls, but thanks to Katie Potter taking the
8 school's active-shooter drills seriously, no one was hit; and

9 WHEREAS, both Thomas Hill and Katie Potter say they are
10 not heroes, but their actions prove otherwise; and

11 WHEREAS, Aztec high school students and staff members also
12 welcomed first responders back to the school on January 12,
13 2018 to pay tribute to their bravery; and

14 WHEREAS, student body leaders recognized police officers,
15 law enforcement agents, firefighters, emergency medical
16 technicians, 911 dispatchers, red cross volunteers and school
17 and district staff; and

18 WHEREAS, Craig Daugherty, San Juan county's fire chief,
19 presented Thomas Hill, who has been a volunteer firefighter for
20 twenty years, with a medal of valor for prompting a lockdown
21 after the shooting began;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the bravery and
24 heroic actions of Thomas Hill and Kathleen "Katie" Potter in
25 the Aztec high school shootings be recognized; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to Thomas Hill and Kathleen "Katie" Potter.