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HOUSE MEMORIAL 31

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Borrego

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Lieutenant King began his firefighting career in  
2000 as a volunteer with the Corrales fire department, followed  
by employment with Albuquerque ambulance service and also

1 worked at times for the Los Ranchos de Albuquerque fire  
2 department, the Sandoval county fire department and the Rio  
3 Rancho fire and rescue department; and

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, the crew had been making water drops from the  
18 helicopter prior to the crash, which happened during the flight  
19 back to Albuquerque; and

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

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

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

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

7           WHEREAS, during the funeral, Lieutenant King was given the  
8 highest award by the Bernalillo county fire department, the  
9 medal of honor, and his helmet was presented to his colleagues  
10 and then to his family; and

11           WHEREAS, fellow firefighters lined the streets to honor  
12 their fallen brother; and

13           WHEREAS, Lieutenant King was also given a fitting final  
14 dispatch, and a final bell toll was rung and the recorded final  
15 dispatch was played at the conclusion of the funeral; and

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

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

20           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 6,  
22 2023 be declared "Bernalillo County Fire Department Lieutenant  
23 Matthew King Day" in the house of representatives and that  
24 Lieutenant King be honored for his courageous sacrifice; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the family of Lieutenant Matthew King.

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