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HOUSE MEMORIAL 8

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Nora Espinoza

A MEMORIAL

HONORING THE HEROISM OF A TEACHER; COMMENDING THE EMPLOYEES OF
THE ROSWELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's children are its greatest treasure;
and

WHEREAS, on every school day, parents, grandparents and
other guardians throughout the state entrust children to the
care and protection of their local schools; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, that protection was
put to the test when over five hundred children were endangered
by gunfire at the Berrendo middle school gymnasium in Roswell,
New Mexico, and two children were seriously injured; and

WHEREAS, confronting live, unexpected gunfire requires
extreme bravery, and no one knows beforehand how one will
respond; and

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1 WHEREAS, the staff at Berrendo middle school met the
2 challenge of that moment in exemplary fashion; and

3 WHEREAS, John Masterson, a teacher at Berrendo middle
4 school, stepped in front of the shooter and talked him into
5 giving up his gun; and

6 WHEREAS, other teachers and staff at Berrendo middle
7 school reacted with decisiveness to attend to the injured
8 children and calm and protect all of the students; and

9 WHEREAS, the Berrendo middle school staff had been trained
10 for "active shooter" situations; and

11 WHEREAS, the Roswell community has been exemplary in its
12 response to this tragedy, exhibiting an outpouring of care and
13 concern for all the children and families involved;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that John Masterson
16 be honored for his heroic actions and the staff of Berrendo
17 middle school be commended, recognizing and honoring the trust
18 emplaced in them; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Roswell independent school
20 district be commended for providing active shooter training to
21 its employees; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that admiration be expressed for
23 the spirit that the Roswell community has shown as it recovers
24 from this tragedy; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to John Masterson, the superintendent of the
2 Roswell independent school district, the editor of the *Roswell*
3 *Daily Record* and the governor.

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