

SENATE MEMORIAL 8

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, more than eight hundred thousand law enforcement officers in the United States risk their lives daily to serve and protect their communities, including approximately four thousand six hundred law enforcement officers in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, there are now more than twenty-four thousand names on the walls of the national law enforcement officers memorial, reflecting the names of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty in the United States since 1786, including one hundred sixty-two from New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers perform their dangerous and difficult jobs honorably and professionally, with an overwhelming majority of Americans reporting positive

1 interactions with law enforcement officers; and

2 WHEREAS, innovative and dedicated efforts by law  
3 enforcement officers have been successful in reducing crime  
4 rates over the past thirty years from historic highs in the  
5 nineteen-nineties; and

6 WHEREAS, in recent years, law enforcement officers have  
7 faced increasingly hostile environments and threats to their  
8 safety, with over seventy-nine thousand officers assaulted in  
9 2023, the highest rate of assaults against officers in years,  
10 and one thousand fifty-five officers have been shot in the line  
11 of duty in the past three years in the United States, resulting  
12 in the deaths of one hundred seventy-two officers; and

13 WHEREAS, during the past year, law enforcement officers  
14 employed by United States immigration and customs enforcement  
15 have experienced a dramatic escalation in threats and  
16 hostilities directed against them in carrying out their duties  
17 across the United States, including a one thousand three  
18 hundred percent increase in assaults, a three thousand two  
19 hundred percent increase in vehicular attacks and an eight  
20 thousand percent increase in death threats, according to  
21 statistics provided by the United States department of homeland  
22 security; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the national law enforcement  
24 officers memorial fund, more than two thousand five hundred law  
25 enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in the

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1 United States in the past ten years; and

2 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers typically encounter an  
3 average of four hundred to six hundred traumatic events in the  
4 course of their careers, compared to three or four such events  
5 for the average citizen; and

6 WHEREAS, the high number of traumatic events experienced  
7 by law enforcement officers has contributed to a suicide rate  
8 that is fifty-four percent higher than workers in other  
9 professions; and

10 WHEREAS, the number of full-time state and local law  
11 enforcement officers in the United States dropped by more than  
12 five percent between 2019 and 2021, the equivalent of losing  
13 thirty-seven thousand officers, leaving state and local  
14 agencies with dangerously low levels of sworn officers to serve  
15 and protect communities; and

16 WHEREAS, supporting law enforcement officers with the  
17 equipment, training and funding needed to protect communities  
18 from criminal acts and violence has long received overwhelming  
19 public support across the political spectrum;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
21 OF NEW MEXICO that law enforcement officers be highly respected  
22 and valued in New Mexico and greatly appreciated for all they  
23 do to serve and protect their communities; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that law enforcement officers who  
25 have died in the line of duty, and the families of those who

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1 have died in the line of duty, be remembered and honored; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all levels of government in  
3 New Mexico be requested to work to ensure that law enforcement  
4 officers receive the support and resources needed to keep all  
5 New Mexico communities safe and to undertake measures to  
6 maximize the safety and well-being of all law enforcement  
7 officers, including increased police personnel, improved  
8 training and equipment, increased penalties for violent acts  
9 against law enforcement officers and increased mental health  
10 resources for law enforcement officers; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public safety,  
13 the chair of the New Mexico sheriffs' association, the  
14 president of the New Mexico association of chiefs of police and  
15 the president of citizens behind the badge.

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