

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to John Masterson, the superintendent of the Roswell independent school district, the editor of the *Roswell Daily Record* and the governor.