

1 A MEMORIAL

2 EXPRESSING THE BELATED CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE TO THE FAMILY  
3 OF MELANIE MILFORD CRAVENS AND HER CHILDREN AND HONORING THE  
4 LIVES OF MELANIE MILFORD CRAVENS AND HER CHILDREN, KANDYCE  
5 MAY NADINE, ERIN LOREE AND KACEE DEON.

6  
7 WHEREAS, on Christmas eve, 1992, Melanie Nadine Milford  
8 Cravens, thirty-one years old, and her three daughters,  
9 Kandyce May Nadine Woodward, nine years old, Erin Loree  
10 Woodward, eight years old, and Kacee Deon Woodward, five  
11 years old, were tragically killed in a head-on collision on  
12 interstate 40; and

13 WHEREAS, Paul Cravens, husband of Melanie and stepfather  
14 to her daughters, was critically injured in that same  
15 accident; and

16 WHEREAS, Melanie and the girls will always be remembered  
17 for their loving natures and for who they were while they  
18 were with us, and they will never age; and

19 WHEREAS, Melanie was a beautiful woman who took charge  
20 of situations easily and whose family was the center of her  
21 life; and

22 WHEREAS, Kandyce was a smart and talented child who  
23 lived every moment of her brief life with enthusiasm and  
24 spirit; and

25 WHEREAS, Erin, the middle child, carried sunshine in her SM 77  
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1 heart and joy in her infectious giggle; and

2 WHEREAS, Kacee, the baby of the family, was a darling  
3 little princess who was very loving and who loved to be  
4 waited on; and

5 WHEREAS, the three girls and Melanie were committed  
6 Christians who loved God and whose faith was strong; and

7 WHEREAS, following that tragic night, Melanie's mother,  
8 Nadine Milford, dedicated her life to making people aware of  
9 New Mexico's problems with DWI and to strengthening the  
10 consequences and penalties for DWI; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1993, the first year following that night,  
12 the New Mexico legislature adopted numerous measures that  
13 lowered the legal level of intoxication; made a fourth or  
14 subsequent conviction for DWI a felony; created a charge of  
15 aggravated DWI for a driver who refused a breath test or had  
16 a blood alcohol level above sixteen one-hundredths; created  
17 mandatory jail times for second or subsequent DWI offenses;  
18 and required server training for all alcohol licensees and  
19 their employees; and

20 WHEREAS, in intervening years, the New Mexico  
21 legislature continued to address this problem area by  
22 increasing penalties for DWI; and

23 WHEREAS, during his first term as a senator, Kent  
24 Cravens carried ignition interlock legislation, and, in 2002,  
25 a measure to require ignition interlocks for subsequent and

1 aggravated DWI offenses passed and has since been  
2 strengthened; and

3 WHEREAS, Gordon House, the driver of the vehicle that  
4 killed Melanie and her girls, was convicted of four counts of  
5 vehicular homicide and sentenced to twenty-two years in  
6 prison; and

7 WHEREAS, due to good behavior, Mr. House was granted  
8 parole after serving nearly half of his sentence; and

9 WHEREAS, upon his release from prison, he will be  
10 required to use an ignition interlock device as a provision  
11 of his parole; and

12 WHEREAS, at the hearing of the parole board, many family  
13 members of Melanie Cravens expressed forgiveness and mercy  
14 toward Mr. House; and

15 WHEREAS, out of the chaos and tragedy of that night in  
16 1992 has arisen great personal courage to forgive and to help  
17 others and the passage of many important measures to make New  
18 Mexico a better and safer place to live;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the belated condolence of the senate  
21 be expressed to the family of Melanie Milford Cravens and her  
22 children and that the lives of Melanie Milford Cravens and  
23 her children, Kandyce May Nadine Woodward, Erin Loree  
24 Woodward and Kacee Deon Woodward, be appropriately honored;  
25 and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to Paul Cravens, Nadine Milford and Senator Kent L. Cravens.

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