

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

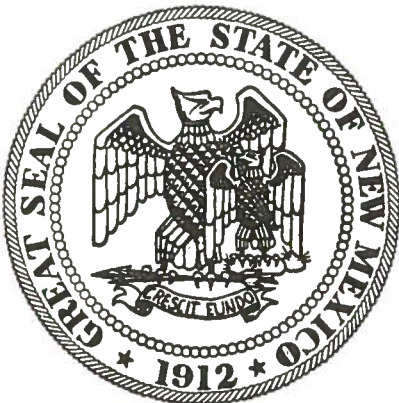
LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 41

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE JAMES W. HALL

AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF FIREFIGHTERS IN THE DAYS
3 DURING, AND THE RECOVERY FOLLOWING, THE LAS CONCHAS WILDFIRE.
4

5 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2011, the Las Conchas wildfire
6 unexpectedly ignited in the Jemez mountains surrounding Los
7 Alamos, the Valles Caldera national preserve and Bandelier
8 national monument; and

9 WHEREAS, in the first hours after the fire erupted, the
10 rapid response of the La Cueva volunteer fire department, the
11 United States park service and the United States forest
12 service preempted the fire from growing in ferocity and
13 shifting direction, and those efforts should be commended, as
14 the fire would have been much worse had the response not come
15 so quickly; and

16 WHEREAS, despite valiant efforts, the flames were
17 extraordinarily wind-driven on June 26 and 27 and quickly
18 raced toward Los Alamos national laboratory, exploding
19 overnight from four thousand acres to over forty thousand
20 acres and, in the days that followed, scorching one hundred
21 fifty-six thousand five hundred ninety-three acres of
22 beautiful northern New Mexico land before finally being fully
23 contained on August 3, 2011; and

24 WHEREAS, across the state, people were deeply saddened
25 and concerned as they watched the out-of-control wildfire burn

1 across the beautiful and sacred lands of the Santa Fe national
2 forest in Sandoval, Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties; the
3 Pueblo of Santa Clara; the Pueblo of Jemez; the Pueblo of
4 Cochiti; the Pueblo of Santo Domingo; Bandelier national
5 monument; and the Valles Caldera national preserve; and

6 WHEREAS, the Las Conchas wildfire destroyed sixty-three
7 homes and forty-nine other buildings, forever changing the
8 lives of the people that owned those residences and buildings;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, thousands of residents in the Jemez mountains,
11 including residents of Los Alamos, were forced to evacuate for
12 their safety, and Los Alamos national laboratory closed during
13 this enormous, uncontained wildfire, the largest in New
14 Mexico's history; and

15 WHEREAS, one hundred twenty-eight of Los Alamos' finest
16 firefighters were called upon to battle the blazes; and

17 WHEREAS, the heroic fight of the Los Alamos firefighters
18 would not have been possible without the help of other
19 resources; and

20 WHEREAS, Los Alamos county was assisted by numerous
21 local, state and federal agencies, including firefighters,
22 police, emergency services and support personnel from Rio
23 Arriba, Santa Fe and Sandoval counties; Cimarron, Tucumcari,
24 Abiquiu, Chamita and Santa Fe; the Pueblo of Santa Clara; the
25 Agua Sana volunteer fire department; the state fire marshal;

1 the United States forest service and the United States park
2 service; and Los Alamos national laboratory; and

3 WHEREAS, the sight of the flames on the mountainside
4 reminded New Mexicans of the Cerro Grande wildfire just eleven
5 years prior; and

6 WHEREAS, lessons learned from the Cerro Grande wildfire
7 and protective and proactive projects undertaken by Los Alamos
8 county and Los Alamos national laboratory benefited
9 firefighters' efforts in 2011; and

10 WHEREAS, although the Las Conchas wildfire devastated
11 many homes and a significant amount of land and property, no
12 lives were lost; and

13 WHEREAS, the fire is a testimonial to the resilience of
14 New Mexico residents, and their ability to survive these
15 experiences has only made them stronger in their resolve to
16 stand together during their greatest times of need, which is
17 proof that New Mexico residents shall always persevere;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
20 firefighters, and all of those who assisted in fighting the
21 blaze, be honored for their service and resolve to contain the
22 flames and protect the people and the lands of New Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the council of the incorporated county of Los
25 Alamos and the governor.



BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES