

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
Memorial



Principal Author: Adrianna Tafoya

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Tabled by: Committee House Senate

Other: _____

Simple Title of Memorial: Recognizing Family Survivors of DUI Victims Memorial

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HOUSE MEMORIAL

72nd SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Adrianna Tafoya

A MEMORIAL

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING FAMILY SURVIVORS OF DUI VICTIMS; INCREASING
AWARENESS OF THE TRAUMATIC CONSEQUENCES OF DRINKING AND DRUG
IMPAIRED DRIVING; DECLARING MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019, “FAMILY SURVIVORS OF
DUI VICTIMS DAY” IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, thousands of families in New Mexico have lost loved ones and also suffer for
many years due to drunk/drugged driver error; and

1 WHEREAS, driving under the influence (DUI) remains a leading cause of deaths in New
2 Mexico, for both drivers as well as their victims and injuries often sustained by the families
3 of the victims; and

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5 WHEREAS, DUI deaths are considerably higher in New Mexico than any other state in the
6 union, causing much hardship for the families of those lost in such crashes; and

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8 WHEREAS, One in three traffic deaths in the state of New Mexico involve a drunk driver,
9 oftentimes not only killing people but also injuring others, such as family members who may
10 have been traveling in the victims vehicle; and

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12 WHEREAS, approximately 1,254 fatalities were reported in the state of New Mexico
13 between 2003-2012, causing financial hardship for many of the victim's family survivors;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, support and recognition for the families of those lost to DUI crashes is limited
17 or nonexistent in some rural areas of the state; and

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19 WHEREAS, a first time DUI offender may only face community service, a fine and short
20 term drug and alcohol screenings, while families of the victims suffer a lifetime of
21 heartache; and

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23 WHEREAS, sobriety checkpoints often miss DUI offenders, allowing them access to
24 highways where many innocent people may die due to the negligent driver, leaving grieving
25 family members; and

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WHEREAS, DUI crash victims and their families get little to no recognition as the victims in the aforementioned crashes; and

WHEREAS, DUI laws in New Mexico remain in place to protect the public from drunk drivers, yet are sometimes not enforced properly due to lack of funding for Police Officers and other public servants, causing much concern for families of victims and fear of recurrence; and

WHEREAS, families of DUI victims suffer traumatic consequences of drinking and drugged impaired driving, which may go unnoticed by the general public; and

WHEREAS, driving drunk is a choice; a choice that kills, maims, and injures innocent people, challenging unrecognized family survivors as never before to keep our community roads safe; and

WHEREAS, families of DUI victims need and deserve recognition to help in the grieving process, allowing them to accept the loss they have suffered at the hands of a DUI driver; and

WHEREAS, family survivors of DUI crashes are also victims of the number one judicial and social problem faced by our society and deserve a support system and a day of recognition to honor their loved ones.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN
2 LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE that families of DUI victims be honored
3 and recognized as additional casualty victims due to the losses they have suffered at the
4 hands of alcohol and/or drug impaired drivers; and by doing so, it will bring awareness of
5 the traumatic consequences of drinking and drug impaired driving; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Monday, June 10,
8 2019 be designated "FAMILY SURVIVORS OF DUI VICTIMS DAY" in the Senate.