**Condolence #2F 2021 FALL SESSION**

**Legislative Action:**

Introduced by**:** Senator M. Cornelio (A)(S)(E), Senator J. Griego (A)(S)(E), Senator R. Harper (S)(E), Senator J. Zinsmeyer (S)(E)

1st Reading: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Referred To:

2nd Reading: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Committee Action: \_\_\_\_\_\_

3rd Reading:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Senate Action:\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Executive Action**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ASUNM President Date

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico (ASUNM) is the representative body of the undergraduate students and promotes student success; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021, more than one hundred (100) people, including thirteen (13), United States service members were killed after one (1) suicide bomber attacked Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, and another attack at a nearby hotel outside the airport resulted in these deaths; and

WHEREAS, **Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover**, **a thirty-one (31) year-old from Salt Lake City, Utah specialized in 0369, infantry unit leadership**, **Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo**, a twenty-five (25) year-old from Lawrence, Massachusetts, was assigned to the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade[[1]](#footnote-1), **Sgt. Nicole L. Gee**, a twenty-three (23) year-old from Sacramento, California who served active duty and was a ground electronics transmission systems maintainer, **Cpl. Hunter Lopez**, a twenty-two (22) year-old from Indio, California was a decorated rifleman, **Cpl. Daegan W. Page**, a twenty-three (23) year-old from Omaha, Nebraska was a decorated rifleman, **Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez**, a twenty-two (22) year-old from Logansport, Indiana was a decorated rifleman, **Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza**, a twenty (20) year-old from Rio Bravo, Texas was a decorated rifleman, **Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz,** a twenty (20) year-old from St. Charles, Missouri was a decorated rifleman, **Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum**, a twenty (20) year old from Jackson, Wyoming was a decorated rifleman, **Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola**, a twenty (20) year old from Cucamonga, California was a decorated rifleman, **Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui**, a twenty (20) year old from Norco, California was a decorated serviceman, **Navy Corpsman Macton W. Soviak**, a twenty-two (22) year old of Berlin Heights, Ohio served under 1st Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division, **Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss**, a twenty-three (23) year-old from Corryton, Tennessee was assigned to 9th PSYOB Battalion, 8th PSYOP Group, were of the thirteen service members killed in action during the suicide bombing taken place on Thursday, August 26th; and

WHEREAS, the bombings additionally took the lives of over one hundred eighty-three (183) Afghan citizens and injured over two hundred (200) more individuals, as has happened in a series of attacks against Afghan refugees attempting to leave the country, many of whose names are not publicly or globally known; and

WHEREAS, the Thursday attack was in relation to the Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS)[[2]](#footnote-2), where U.S. forces are exerted to train, advise, and assist Afghan National Defence and Security Forces for counterterrorism measures against the remaining al Qaeda; and

WHEREAS, the service members of eleven Marines, one Navy corpsman, and one Soldier were killed in duty as a result of an enemy attack while following non-combatant evacuation operations of the Afghan refugees; and

WHEREAS, the terrorist group ISIS-K claimed responsibility for the attack; and

WHEREAS, this attack was the deadliest day for American military forces in Afghanistan since 2011[[3]](#footnote-3).

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RECOGNIZED, that ASUNM acknowledges the life lost, including the toll taken on the Afghan society by this and other attacks, and for the organizations, families and friends of the U.S. service members and those affected; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that ASUNM acknowledges the unfortunate and terrible nature of these events, and will take into consideration the necessary actions to honor these people who fought so bravely to ensure the safety of their fellow Americans and the people of Afghanistan involved in the evacuation, supporting full and proper investigations of the actions involved; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that ASUNM honors and thanks **Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Sgt. Nicole L. Gee**, **Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover. Cpl. Hunter Lopez**, **Cpl. Daegan W. Page, Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza,**  **Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum,**  **Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui**, **Navy Corpsman Macton W. Soviak**, **Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss,** for their work for the United States Military; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE DECREED, that a copy of this Condolence is forwarded to UNM Board of Regents, UNM President Garnett Stokes, UNM Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Tim Gutierrez, the Daily Lobo, UNM Veteran and Military Resource Center, the UNM undergraduate student body, and the families of **Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover,** **Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Sgt. Nicole L. Gee**, **Cpl. Hunter Lopez**, **Cpl. Daegan W. Page, Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza,**  **Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum,**  **Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui**, **Navy Corpsman Macton W. Soviak**, **Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss.**

**Link to Donate to International Rescue Committee Work in Afghanistan:** [**https://www.rescue.org/country/afghanistan**](https://www.rescue.org/country/afghanistan)

**Individual U.S. Service Member Memorial Fundraisers:**

[**https://gofund.me/c3482cbc**](https://gofund.me/c3482cbc) **- Max Soviak Memorial Fund**

[**https://gofund.me/a2aec16f**](https://gofund.me/a2aec16f) **- Rylee McCollum's Child Education Fund**

[**https://gofund.me/9a061765**](https://gofund.me/9a061765) **- Memorial Fund US Marine SSgt Taylor Hoover**

[**https://gofund.me/037277a8**](https://gofund.me/037277a8) **- Help us say goodbye to our Hero, Nicole Gee**

[**https://gofund.me/2b9ff2e2**](https://gofund.me/2b9ff2e2) **- Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola’s Funeral**

[**https://gofund.me/beb28aa9**](https://gofund.me/beb28aa9) **- US Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario**

[**https://gofund.me/bfc4eff2**](https://gofund.me/bfc4eff2) **- The Sergeant Tyler Vargas-Andrews Family Fund**

1. <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2021/08/28/here-are-the-names-of-the-13-service-members-who-died-in-afghanistan-attack/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties\_ofs.xhtml [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.npr.org/2021/08/27/1031649747/kabul-airport-explosions-afghanistan-dead-evacuations [↑](#footnote-ref-3)