

REFERENCE TITLE: Matthew Miller; death resolution

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HR 2009

Introduced by
Representatives Shah: Bowers, DeGrazia, Grantham, Senators Fann, Pace

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF MATTHEW MILLER.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Matthew Miller passed away on July 10, 2021 in heroic service as an
2 aerial firefighter in northwestern Arizona.

3 A result of thunderstorms that occurred on July 9, 2021, the Cedar
4 Basin Fire initially burned 300 acres of land near Wikieup, Arizona. The
5 following day, forty-eight-year-old pilot Matthew Miller and
6 sixty-two-year-old Jeff Piechura, Air Tactical Group Supervisor, were
7 performing aerial reconnaissance and command and control as part of
8 initial attack efforts on the growing brushfire. Tragically, the
9 Beechcraft King aircraft they were aboard crashed, and these two community
10 heroes perished.

11 An accomplished pilot, instructor and fire pilot, Matthew Miller
12 moved to Mesa in 1996 to serve as a flight instructor with what would
13 become Falcon Executive Aviation, Inc. Passionate about all aspects of
14 the aviation industry, he trained thousands of students over the years
15 and, as a designated pilot examiner with the Federal Aviation
16 Administration, he issued licenses to hundreds of new pilots. Matt held
17 multiple positions with the flight school, including chief flight
18 instructor, advanced ground instructor, manager, company check airman and
19 safety officer. He served admirably with the United States Forest Service
20 as an air attack pilot and instructor, and he had an exceptional knowledge
21 of forest service policies and procedures, including fire behavior and
22 tactics. Matt leaves behind his loving wife, Jacqy, and two stepchildren.

23 Wildland firefighters face incredible risks to their lives and
24 well-being in order to protect lives, communities and natural resources,
25 and this state owes a debt of gratitude to courageous and dedicated
26 individuals such as Matthew Miller who has given his life in the line of
27 duty. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues, many friends and
28 loving family members.

29 Therefore

30 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

31 That the Members of the House of Representatives express their
32 deepest regret at the tragic and untimely passing of Matthew Miller and
33 extend their deepest condolences to his surviving family members.