

REFERENCE TITLE: death resolution; Matthew Miller

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

HR 2010

Introduced by
Representative Shah

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 was performing
6 aerial reconnaissance and command and control as part of initial attack
7 efforts on the growing brushfire. Tragically, the Beechcraft King
8 aircraft he was aboard crashed, and he perished.

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

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

27 Therefore

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

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