



NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER VALERIE ESPINOZA

CHIEF OF STAFF JOHNNY MONTOYA

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRC's Espinoza Dedicates Chama Fire Station to Local Firefighting Hero

SANTA FE — Over the Fourth of July holiday in Chama, N.M., Public Regulation Commissioner Valerie Espinoza (District 3) was on hand to dedicate one of the town's fire stations in memory of 30-year volunteer fireman and longtime state government employee, Richard "Cardito" Felix Gallegos.

Gallegos retired from the New Mexico State Land Office in 2007. He had previously been stationed in the SLO's Farmington District, where he conducted real estate appraisals, right-of-way reviews and was responsible for overseeing thousands of acres of state trust lands.

The PRC's Patrick H. Lyons (District 2), a former state land commissioner, said Gallegos did exemplary work as a landman in his post at the SLO. Dennis Garcia, a former deputy commissioner under Lyons, echoed that sentiment.

At the dedication ceremony, Espinoza thanked Gallegos' parents for their son's dedication and contributions to the Chama community.

"Firefighters play a very important role in our society, as we have seen and heard over the past several months," she said. "These people are heroes who put their lives on the line every time they're called out, just like the 19 firefighters killed in the Yarnell Hill Fire in Arizona in June."

Espinoza currently serves at the PRC's Vice-Chair. She has spent time recently in the Chama Valley helping consumers affected by recent cell phone service outages, and has actively participated on inspections of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad in the Chama area.

Dedication ceremony photos:



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