





## Proclamation

### RECOGNIZING MARIA ELENA GRIJALVA FOR BEING A NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION AWARD HONOREE

WHEREAS, Maria Elena Grijalva was born on May 17, 1956 in Tulare, CA. to John and Alicia Arriola; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 1987, Maria Elena Grijalva received a kidney transplant from her brother, kidney donor, John Arriola after her kidneys failed and needed a transplant; and

WHEREAS, through her journey, Maria Elena Grijalva struggled to get information and guidance about kidney disease until she became aware of a local kidney support group, and ever since, she has been the volunteer coordinator for the Tulare Kings Kidney Support Group, the only Kidney Support Group in four counties; and

WHEREAS, Maria Elena Grijalva has been a kidney patient advocate, fighting to improve the lives of people facing kidney disease or those at a greater risk of kidney disease, and she has devoted her efforts to educating her community, particularly individuals of Native American or Hispanic backgrounds; and

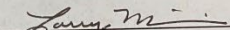
WHEREAS, Maria Elena Grijalva continues to serve the community in many other capacities such as being a volunteer for the Northern National Kidney Foundation, and an ambassador for life through Donate a Life, a program of the California Transplant Donor Network; and

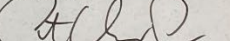
WHEREAS, Maria Elena Grijalva was honored with the Celeste Castillo Lee Patient Engagement Award is the highest honor given by the National Kidney Foundation to a distinguished kidney patient who exemplifies NKF's mission and Celeste's legacy of putting patients at the center of all aspects of healthcare through their involvement with NKF and community partners.

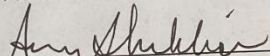
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize Maria Elena Grijalva for being a 2023 Celeste Lee Patient Engagement, National Kidney Foundation Honoree and commends her for her impeccable longtime commitment and dedication to raise awareness of kidney disease in the County of Tulare.

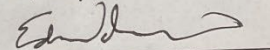
April 18, 2023

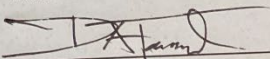


  
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