

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Honoring the Castle Peak Avalanche Search and Rescue Efforts

The County of Nevada Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in recognizing and thanking all the agencies and individuals who played a role in the search and rescue efforts following the February 2026 avalanche, which occurred near Frog Lake and Castle Peak. The coordinated response effort demonstrates the strength of our collective mission to serve our communities during times of crisis, and we commend you for your resilience, professionalism, and partnership during this critical incident.

On February 17, 2026, an avalanche occurred in the Castle Peak area in Eastern Nevada County. A group of backcountry skiers and their guides were caught in the incident and crews were immediately dispatched to the area. Under the leadership of the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, a coordinated and collaborative response mission was launched. Numerous partner agencies and individuals came together to analyze conditions and develop a plan, which emphasized the urgency of the response while also prioritizing the safety of all personnel involved. Given the ongoing strength of the blizzard, including high winds, risk of additional avalanches, and whiteout conditions, the mission required a coordinated and thoughtful approach to ensure all those involved remained safe.

The mission response team included: Nevada County Sheriff's Search and Rescue, Placer County Sheriff's Office, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Washoe County Search and Rescue, California's Governor's Office of Emergency Services, California Highway Patrol Air Operations, Care Flight Truckee, a service of REMSA Health, Sierra Avalanche Center, Pacific Gas & Electric, United States Forest Service, California State Parks, Truckee Fire Protection District, OpenSnow, Tahoe Donner's Alder Creek Adventure Center, Boreal Mountain Ski Resort, Truckee Tahoe Airport, Town of Truckee Office of Emergency Services, Truckee Police Department, Truckee Donner Land Trust, and the California National Guard.

Through teamwork, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to public service, each of you exemplified the highest standards of emergency response and interagency cooperation and therefore, with the utmost gratitude, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors is honored to recognize and thank you for your outstanding service in the Castle Peak avalanche search and rescue mission.

Lisa Swarthout, Chair

Heidi Hall, District I

Robb Tucker, District II

Susan K. Hoek, District IV

Hardy Bullock, District V