



## HONORING NM HEROES

250 Flags is a statewide initiative honoring up to 250 individuals who represent the very best of New Mexico as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. We're recognizing everyday heroes, people who lead, serve, and make a real impact in their communities. Posthumous nominations are welcome. Nominate someone by submitting their name and a brief description of why they deserve to be honored at [newsradio1010.com/250-flags/Selected-honorees](http://newsradio1010.com/250-flags/Selected-honorees). Selected honorees will receive a commemorative American flag, be recognized on-air on News Radio KKOB and in the Albuquerque Journal, and be celebrated at the official 250 Flags event.

Nominate a  
local hero today!



### Clara Padilla Andrews (1943–1986)

Clara Padilla Andrews made history as the first Latina elected to statewide office in the U.S., serving as New Mexico secretary of state (1983–1986). She broke representation barriers, founded Las Amigas de Nuevo Mexico to promote the state globally, and earned national recognition for public service. A strong advocate for Latino communities, her leadership expanded opportunities for women and future generations of New Mexican leaders.

### Samuel J. Kunzman

Samuel J. Kunzman turned the loss of his father into a mission that is already making a difference for young athletes and families. In honor of his late father, he founded the James S. Kunzman Foundation to help keep kids by providing equipment, reducing costs and expanding access to youth baseball and softball.

The foundation has supported programs in Belen, Albuquerque and Pueblo, Colorado, bringing together players, families, coaches and volunteers through the positive power of youth sports. Beyond the field, Samuel uses community events to strengthen connections and unite people from all walks of life.

He is now working to develop a major youth camp in Albuquerque's South Valley.

By honoring his father's legacy through service, Samuel Kunzman is creating lasting opportunities for the next generation and making a meaningful impact on communities throughout New Mexico.

### Dr. Lisa Leiding

Dr. Lisa Leiding has dedicated more than three decades to serving New Mexico through nursing, military service, emergency medicine and education. A proud New Mexico nurse for 31 years, Dr. Leiding served for eight years in the U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corps. She later earned her bachelor's of science in nursing from Regis University along with both her master's and doctorate degrees of nursing from Chamberlain University.

Throughout her career, Dr. Leiding has worked in correctional healthcare and emergency medicine while also discovering a passion for teaching and mentoring future nurses. Today, she teaches full-time while continuing to work in emergency care as needed.

Her commitment to honoring service was recently demonstrated through a meaningful project recognizing nurses buried at Santa Fe National Cemetery. After researching military nurses laid to rest there, she organized a special candle-lighting ceremony on National Nurses Day.