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Rep Grijalva honors fallen soldiers at MOCA.

(Tucson) Representative Raul Grijalva and Paki Rico from Governor Napolitano's office honored fallen soldiers at the Museum of Contemporary Art on Friday night. The Arizona International Film Festival held their opening party at MOCA to celebrate the launch of independent voices and freedom of expression in film. The party began on a hopeful, yet somber note, as all in attendance paid homage to those who have risked their lives to support our freedom of speech and the liberty we enjoy here in the United States. Rep. Grijalva pointed out that the filmmakers draw attention to important issues such as immigration and the border in our region. *Exporting Liberty*, the exhibition of artwork by Phoenix-based Heidi Hesse explores precisely these issues. One of the artworks in the exhibition creates a memorial arch in honor of the fallen soldiers. Rep. Grijalva and Paki Rico, representing Governor Janet Napolitano's office, both placed flags on the memorial wall in honor of the fallen soldiers. Ted Parks, President of the Arizona Media Arts Center, the presenter of the film festival, said of the emotional ceremony "Nothing prepared me for the emotional impact of this. The visual impact of the flags—each representing a fallen soldier—was overwhelming. We must continue to support independent artists in all media." Deborah Dale, the president of MOCA's board of trustees says "Both

MOCA and the film festival bring important creative voices from all around the world to Tucson. In turn, we bring international attention to Tucson through our shared endeavors.” The film festival continues through the awards ceremony on April 24th.

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The mission of the Museum of Contemporary Art is to provide a forum for the development and exchange of ideas about the art of our time. Through varied programs, MOCA supports the critical interpretation and display of the highest quality of contemporary art in service to our community as a public trust. MOCA is supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Tucson-Piima Arts Council, and members of our community. MOCA is a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 organization.