

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Steven P. Neville and Candace Gould

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO NAME A  
12 PORTION OF NEW MEXICO HIGHWAY 173 FROM AZTEC TO NAVAJO DAM THE  
13 "ABE CHAVEZ, JR., MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".

14  
15 WHEREAS, requests for the designation or dedication by  
16 name of any department of transportation road are submitted to  
17 the state transportation commission for approval; and

18 WHEREAS, a requested designation by name is intended as a  
19 memorial to an event, a person or persons of significance or  
20 intended as an honor to a person or persons of national esteem;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Abe Chavez, Jr., a respected and successful  
23 businessman of Navajo Dam, died on April 21, 2019; and

24 WHEREAS, Abe was born in Belen, the first of five children  
25 in his family; and

1           WHEREAS, Abe and his wife, Patsy Atencio, were married for  
2 sixty-five years; and

3           WHEREAS, Abe built his first duplex in Farmington at the  
4 age of sixteen; later, Abe and Patsy worked tirelessly to build  
5 a very successful business, Abe's motel and fly shop, in Navajo  
6 Dam on the San Juan river; and

7           WHEREAS, Abe and his family's business endeavors went on  
8 to include a post office, gas station, convenience store,  
9 restaurant, motel and boat storage; and

10          WHEREAS, the family fishing supply store, along with its  
11 restaurant and motel, has been a popular destination over the  
12 past six decades in Navajo Dam; and

13          WHEREAS, it would be a fitting honor to recognize Abe  
14 Chavez, Jr., who was instrumental in making the San Juan river  
15 the destination it is today for the fishing community, by  
16 having a section of a highway named after him;

17          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state transportation commission be  
19 requested to rename a portion of New Mexico highway 173 from  
20 Aztec to Navajo Dam as the "Abe Chavez, Jr., Memorial Highway";  
21 and

22          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the state transportation commission and the  
24 family of Abe Chavez, Jr.