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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Many M Aragon**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**HONORING SENATOR JOHN PINTO FOR HIS SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS.**

**WHEREAS, during World War II, the United States military  
developed and utilized a secret military code based on the  
Navajo language; and**

**WHEREAS, members of the Navajo Nation were recruited to  
serve as Marine Corps radio operators to use the Navajo  
language to communicate complex military messages in the South  
Pacific; and**

**WHEREAS, the radio operators and their ability to  
communicate messages in a unique, unbreakable code are  
credited with saving countless lives and hastening the end of  
World War II in the Pacific theater; and**

**WHEREAS, the New Mexico Senate is particularly proud to**

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1 count as one of its own Senator John Pinto, a former Navajo  
2 Code Talker; and

3 WHEREAS, this year Senator Pinto will receive a silver  
4 congressional medal for his World War II service and his  
5 contributions to the Navajo Code Talkers; and

6 WHEREAS, at a time when some members of New Mexico's  
7 Native American population were still denied the right to  
8 vote, members of the Navajo Nation like Senator Pinto stepped  
9 forward to protect and defend their country; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexicans should never forget the injustices  
11 to or the contributions of Senator John Pinto and his fellow  
12 Navajo Code Talkers who so honorably and successfully defended  
13 their country in its hour of need;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Senator John Pinto and the Navajo  
16 Code Talkers be recognized and honored for their important  
17 contributions to the Allied effort in World War II; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
19 delivered to Senator John Pinto and to the president of the  
20 Navajo Nation.