

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING JOHN PEROVICH FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS DURING HIS
3 LIFE OF SERVICE AND FOR HIS DEDICATION TO HIGHER EDUCATION
4 AND PHILANTHROPY AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIM AS A NEW MEXICO
5 TREASURE.

6
7 WHEREAS, John Perovich, age ninety-three, is a
8 native New Mexican who grew up the son of a coal miner in
9 Van Houten, a mining community near Raton; and

10 WHEREAS, John graduated from Raton high school in 1942
11 and, from 1943 to 1945, served as a navigator in the United
12 States army air corps; and

13 WHEREAS, John and his wife, June Perovich, both grew up
14 in the Raton area, met in high school and married in 1946
15 while they were students at the university of New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1948, John began his career at the
17 university of New Mexico as a student assistant; and

18 WHEREAS, John received a bachelor of business
19 administration degree and a master of business administration
20 degree from the university of New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, from 1948 to 1982, John held numerous positions
22 at the university of New Mexico, including purchasing agent,
23 comptroller and vice president for business and finance; and

24 WHEREAS, from 1982 to 1985, John served as president of
25 the university of New Mexico; and

1 WHEREAS, during his tenure as president of the
2 university of New Mexico, John was credited with increasing
3 the number and amount of presidential scholarships and
4 raising funds for the university of New Mexico foundation;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, John was also instrumental in securing research
7 grants and funding for two engineering chairs; and

8 WHEREAS, at the time of his retirement, an *Albuquerque*
9 *Tribune* editorial described John's administration as one of
10 "slow, steady, peaceful and genuine progress – a kind of
11 progress that reflects the character of Perovich himself";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in 1985, John was named president emeritus of
14 the university of New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to his academic career, John is
16 also very active in philanthropy; and

17 WHEREAS, John continued to honor the legacy and wishes
18 of Helen K. and Hugh B. Woodward through the establishment of
19 the Sandia foundation; and

20 WHEREAS, John served as chairman of the board of the
21 Sandia foundation for forty-eight years; and

22 WHEREAS, under his prudent leadership, the corpus of the
23 Sandia foundation portfolio grew from four million dollars
24 (\$4,000,000) to eighty-eight million dollars (\$88,000,000)
25 today; and

1 WHEREAS, the Sandia foundation beneficiaries include
2 the university of New Mexico Woodward scholarship endowment,
3 Dickinson college in Pennsylvania and various nonprofits in
4 Albuquerque; and

5 WHEREAS, under John's steadfast leadership and the
6 guidance of the board of trustees, the Sandia foundation has
7 contributed over thirty-eight million dollars (\$38,000,000)
8 to the university of New Mexico Woodward scholarship
9 endowment, thirty-eight million dollars (\$38,000,000) to
10 Dickinson college and over eight million five hundred
11 thousand dollars (\$8,500,000) to Albuquerque nonprofits; and

12 WHEREAS, John was also on the board of trustees of the
13 Frank C. Hibben charitable trust and is a member of the
14 educational retirement board; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1994, John was awarded an honorary doctorate
16 of law degree from Dickinson college and was recognized for
17 his outstanding leadership contributions while serving as
18 vice president for business and finance and president of the
19 university of New Mexico and as chairman of the board of the
20 Sandia foundation; and

21 WHEREAS, in his retirement, John continues to exercise
22 every day and has had time to perfect his golf game; and

23 WHEREAS, at age eighty-four, John shot his age by
24 scoring a forty-three on the front nine at the university of
25 New Mexico championship golf course and a forty-one on the

1 back; and

2 WHEREAS, in a commencement speech to Maxwell high
3 school, John stated that "all of us need people: a role
4 model, someone we can look up to, admire and respect, someone
5 who can motivate and inspire us and, most importantly, good
6 teachers to lead us and help us find the way"; and

7 WHEREAS, John's friends describe him as very effective,
8 but in a quiet way; and

9 WHEREAS, John's wife, June, credits the longevity of
10 their marriage to "marrying a good man" who she thinks is
11 "kinda cute"; and

12 WHEREAS, John and June have two children, a son, Robert
13 Perovich, and a daughter, Jane Wilkinson;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that John Perovich be honored for his
16 many contributions from his life of service in the United
17 States army air corps to his dedication to higher education,
18 philanthropy and New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that John Perovich be recognized
20 and acknowledged as a New Mexico treasure; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to John Perovich and his children. _____

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