

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING FORTY-TWO YEARS OF SERVICE BY STATE SENATOR JOHN
3 PINTO AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 14, 2018 "SENATOR JOHN PINTO
4 DAY" IN THE SENATE.

5
6 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto was born in 1924 to a family
7 of Navajo shepherders and was raised in Lupton, Arizona, and
8 Gallup, New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto attended a bureau of Indian
10 affairs boarding school in Fort Defiance, Arizona, and after
11 many unsuccessful attempts to run away, he finally graduated;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, he received his bachelor's degree at the age of
14 thirty-nine and a master's degree in elementary education
15 from the university of New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto served in the United States
17 marine corps as a Navajo code talker and, in 2001, received a
18 congressional silver medal of honor for his service as a code
19 talker; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto worked for twenty-eight
21 years in the Gallup-McKinley county school system and has
22 served as the legislative liaison for the Navajo Nation
23 division of transportation since October 1988; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto served as president of the
25 Gallup Indian community center from 1950 through 1970, during

1 which time he helped to feed the homeless and the
2 less-fortunate families of Gallup; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto served as president of the
4 Breadsprings chapter, also know as the Baahaali chapter, of
5 the Navajo Nation from 1950 to 1954; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto served as
7 secretary-treasurer for the Red Rock chapter of the Navajo
8 Nation from 1954 to 1960; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto served as a member of the
10 eastern Navajo tribal council from 1950 to 1960; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto was elected in 1972 to the
12 McKinley county board of commissioners, where he served for
13 four years as a commissioner; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto has served with distinction
15 in the New Mexico senate since his arrival in 1977, when, as
16 a hitchhiker, he was picked up in a snowstorm in Albuquerque
17 by then-fellow freshman senator, Manny Aragon; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto has been a member of the
19 interim legislative Indian affairs committee since it was
20 first created in 1989 and has been the chair of the senate
21 Indian and cultural affairs committee since its creation in
22 1987; and

23 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto has been instrumental in the
24 passage of numerous legislative initiatives, including the
25 designation, in 1987, of "American Indian Day" in New Mexico;

1 the creation, in 2004, of the first state cabinet-level
2 Indian affairs department; and the improvement of state
3 highway 491 between Gallup and Shiprock; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto has worked tirelessly for
5 the improvement of state highway 491 between Gallup and
6 Shiprock, which the legislature suggested, in 2003, be
7 renamed "Senator John Pinto Highway"; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto annually entertains his
9 colleagues in the senate with his rendition, in Navajo, of
10 the "potato song"; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto is the senior member in the
12 senate; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto is a mentor, gentleman and
14 wise leader whose kind demeanor has earned him the full
15 respect of the senate; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto was married to his wife,
17 Joann, for sixty-three years at the time of her passing; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator John Pinto is known nationwide and in
19 many foreign countries for his involvement in national
20 legislative organizations;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it extend its congratulations to
23 Senator John Pinto on his forty-two years of service in the
24 New Mexico senate, where he has furthered the causes of his
25 constituents, the Navajo Nation and the people of New Mexico;

1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 14, 2018 be
3 declared "Senator John Pinto Day" in the senate; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to Senator John Pinto. _____

SM 119
Page 4

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