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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

ROMAN M. MAES III

A JOINT MEMORIAL

IN SUPPORT OF A PRESIDENTIAL COMMUTATION OF THE SENTENCE OF
PETER McDONALD OF THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS, Peter McDonald, former chairman of the Navajo
nation, is now in the sixth year of serving a fourteen-year
federal sentence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald was sentenced pursuant to his
convictions for instigating a riot, accepting bribes, fraud
and racketeering; and

WHEREAS, while in prison, Mr. McDonald has suffered a
heart attack and a broken wrist and due to these problems has
been housed at the federal medical center at Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Navajo nation have a tradition
of forgiveness and respect for their leaders and are in
agreement that Mr. McDonald should be allowed to return to his

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1 home in the Arizona portion of the Navajo nation; and

2 WHEREAS, the people of the Navajo nation remember that
3 Mr. McDonald was a code talker during World War II and that he
4 was an electrical engineer by profession before returning home
5 to enter into positions of leadership of the Navajo nation;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the Navajo nation council, the legislative
8 branch of the Navajo nation, has adopted a resolution
9 forgiving Mr. McDonald for his crimes; and

10 WHEREAS, the president of the Navajo nation is in support
11 of obtaining an early release for Mr. McDonald; and

12 WHEREAS, the people of the Navajo nation are concerned
13 for his health and believe that his absence from his homeland
14 will cause Mr. McDonald to wither, causing his health to fail;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, through petitions and letters, Navajo nation
17 members, national political figures and many others have
18 requested that the president of the United States provide an
19 early release for Mr. McDonald;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its support for an early
22 release for Peter McDonald, former chairman of the Navajo
23 nation; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of the United
25 States is hereby requested to commute the sentence of Peter

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1 McDonald and the New Mexico congressional delegation is hereby
2 requested to support the commutation of Peter McDonald's
3 sentence so that he can return home to the Navajo nation; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the president of the United States, the New
6 Mexico congressional delegation, the president of the Navajo
7 nation and the speaker of the Navajo nation council.

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2 SECOND SESSION, 1998
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6 February 4, 1998
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8 Mr. President:
9

10 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred
11

12 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23
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14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS.
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18 Respectfully submitted,
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23 _____
24 Gloria Howes, Chairman
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Adopted _____ Not

Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

No: 0

Excused: Altamirano, Aragon, Campos

Absent: None

SJ023RU1

Underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete