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SENATE MEMORIAL 39

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999**

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

A MEMORIAL

ACKNOWLEDGING THE NAME CHANGE OF THE NAVAJO NATION CHAPTER  
FORMERLY CALLED CANONCITO AND NOW TO BE KNOWN AS THE  
TO' HAJIILEE CHAPTER OF THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS, the Navajo chapter formerly called Canoncito is  
located about forty minutes west of Albuquerque and north of  
interstate 40; and

WHEREAS, the name "Canoncito", a Spanish word meaning  
"little canyon", was bestowed on the residents of that Navajo  
chapter by President Harry S. Truman and the United States  
congress when congress recognized the "Canoncito Band of  
Navajo Indians"; and

WHEREAS, the people living in the area known as Canoncito  
have traditionally called the place where they live  
To' Hajiilee, or "the place where the water is drawn up"; and

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, the students in a law class at the To'Hajiilee  
2 community high school researched the name of their community  
3 and petitioned the Canoncito chapter and then the Navajo  
4 Nation council to concur in the change of the name of the  
5 community to its traditional name; and

6           WHEREAS, the Canoncito chapter and the Navajo Nation  
7 council have concurred and endorsed the change of name; and

8           WHEREAS, the support of the senate of New Mexico is  
9 requested in acknowledging the name change of the Canoncito  
10 Navajo chapter to the To'Hajiilee Navajo chapter;

11           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
12 OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge the change of name of the  
13 Canoncito Navajo chapter to the To'Hajiilee Navajo chapter and  
14 acknowledge the effort of the students at To'Hajiilee  
15 community high school in working to restore the true Navajo  
16 name to their chapter; and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state change highway and  
18 road signs, maps and any other public documents printed by the  
19 state to reflect the Navajo chapter of To'Hajiilee; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States department  
21 of the interior be requested to acknowledge the change of name  
22 of the To'Hajiilee chapter of the Navajo Nation; and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the chapter president of the To'Hajiilee  
25 chapter of the Navajo Nation, the secretary of the interior,

underscored material = new  
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1 the secretary of highway and transportation and the speaker of  
2 the Navajo Nation council.

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