

Contact: Karen Francis, Public Information Officer  
Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker  
(928) 871-7160  
karenfrancis@navajo.org  
[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

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### **SENATOR PINTO HONORED DURING NEW MEXICO INDIAN DAY**

The Navajo Nation expressed its appreciation to New Mexico State Senator John Pinto for 29 years of dedicated service during an awards presentation at the New Mexico state capitol building in Santa Fe, N.M.

The presentation to Senator Pinto was part of the 2006 American Indian Day of the New Mexico State Legislature held Tuesday, February 7, 2006. The theme this year was "Honoring Indian Children through Education and Leadership."

Francis Redhouse, Council delegate for Teecnospos Chapter, presented a plaque on behalf of Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) recognizing the senator's outstanding public service and leadership.

"A remarkable, dedicated individual he has made District 3 what it is today," Redhouse said.

Redhouse listed the numerous projects benefiting Navajo communities that Senator Pinto has helped to achieve, such as capital improvements and road improvements like the expansion of Highway 491 to a four-lane highway.

"He has done well for all of us," Redhouse said.

Joining Redhouse for the presentation were Council delegate Leonard Teller, Miss Indian New Mexico 2005-2006 Anthnette Fern Spencer and President Joe Shirley, Jr. The senator also received a plaque of recognition from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and a blanket with the Navajo Nation seal.

President Shirley called Pinto a man with a big heart and added that it would be impossible to repay the senator for all he has done.

Others who were also honored during Indian Day included Governor of Laguna Pueblo Roland Johnson, Ladonna Harris from the Commanche Nation, and the new president of the National Congress of American Indians Joe Garcia, who is also governor of Ohkay Owingeh.

Governor Bill Richardson read aloud a proclamation proclaiming February 7<sup>th</sup> “Governor Joe Garcia Day.”

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Attached photo: Council delegate Francis Redhouse, Miss Indian New Mexico Anthnette Fern Spencer, Senator John Pinto, President Joe Shirley and Council delegate Leonard Teller at the State Capitol in Santa Fe, N.M. The Navajo Nation recognized the senator for 29 years for outstanding public service and leadership in the New Mexico State Legislature.