

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2019

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO, MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, AND NEW MEXICO STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, TO NAME US ROUTE 491 IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR DR. JOHN PINTO

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate all state programs, including education in public schools. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701 (A)(6).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. US Route 491 runs from Gallup, NM to Shiprock, NM within transportation districts five and six.
- B. On May 25, 2017 the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council adopted legislation NABIMY-49-17 requesting the State of New Mexico designate U.S. Route 491 as the "Chief Manuelito Highway". Since that time the Navajo Nation has lost a contemporary champion with the passing of Senator Dr. John Pinto. It is the express desire of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of this the 24th Navajo Nation Council to amend that previous dedication request and honor the late New Mexico State Senator Dr. John Pinto.
- C. New Mexico State Senator Dr. John Pinto, represented the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of New Mexico, passed away on May 24, 2019.

- D. Senator Dr. John Pinto was elected to the New Mexico State Senate in 1977, and held this position until his passing on May 24, 2019, making him New Mexico's longest serving member of the New Mexico State Senate.
- E. Senator Dr. John Pinto was born in Lupton, Arizona on Navajo Nation and was Dibé Lizhiní (Black Sheep Clan), born for Táchii'nii (Red Running Into the Water People Clan). His maternal grandfather was Tl'izilaní (Many Goats Clan), and his paternal grandfather was Naaneesht'ézhí Táchii'nii (Charcoal-Streaked Division of the Red Running into the Water Clan) from the Standing Rock, Navajo Nation area.
- F. Senator Dr. John Pinto enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1941 and served as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II.
- G. Senator Dr. John Pinto served as a member of the New Mexico Senate Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee and Senate Education Committee.
- H. Senator Dr. John Pinto was a pillar of the local community and gave his unwavering service to not only Navajo Nation, but also the State of New Mexico, and the United States. He was revered by both his local constituents in Navajo Nation and his colleagues in the New Mexico Senate. While working in Washington D.C. he continued his dedication to local communities both on Navajo Nation and throughout New Mexico. Because of his tireless dedication and support, Navajo Nation requests that US Route 491 be named after Senator Dr. John Pinto to honor his legacy.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Navajo Nation hereby respectfully requests that New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and New Mexico State Transportation Commission, name US Route 491 in honor of the late New Mexico State Senator Dr. John Pinto in recognition of New Mexico State Senator Dr. Pinto's legacy of strong advocacy and dedicated work to enhance the lives of the Diné of the Great Navajo Nation.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 19 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019.



Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Second: Honorable Raymond Smith, Jr.

Chairman Seth Damon not voting

## NAVAJO NATION

10/10/2019

Naa'bik'iyati Committee Meeting

11:28:05 AM

Amd# to Amd#      Legislation 0177-19:  
MOT Begay, K      Respectfully Requesting the  
SEC Smith      Governor of New Mexico, Michelle  
Lujan Grisham, to name US....

PASSED

Yea : 19

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 4

## Yea : 19

Begay, E	Daniels	Smith	Tso, O
Begay, K	Freeland, M	Stewart, W	Walker, T
Begay, P	Henio, J	Tso, C	Yazzie
Brown	Nez, R	Tso, D	Yellowhair
Charles-Newton	Slater, C	Tso, E	

## Nay : 0

## Excused : 0

## Not Voting : 4

Wauneka, E	James, V	Halona, P	Crotty
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Presiding Chair: Damon