

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 112

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gerald Ortiz y Pino

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 HONORING JOHN PEROVICH FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS DURING HIS
12 LIFE OF SERVICE AND FOR HIS DEDICATION TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND
13 PHILANTHROPY AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIM AS A NEW MEXICO TREASURE.

14
15 WHEREAS, John Perovich, age ninety-three, is a native New
16 Mexican who grew up the son of a coal miner in Van Houten, a
17 mining community near Raton; and

18 WHEREAS, John graduated from Raton high school in 1942
19 and, from 1943 to 1945, served as a navigator in the United
20 States army air corps; and

21 WHEREAS, John and his wife, June Perovich, both grew up in
22 the Raton area, met in high school and married in 1946 while
23 they were students at the university of New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1948, John began his career at the university
25 of New Mexico as a student assistant; and

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1 WHEREAS, John received a bachelor of business
2 administration degree and a master of business administration
3 degree from the university of New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, from 1948 to 1982, John held numerous positions
5 at the university of New Mexico, including purchasing agent,
6 comptroller and vice president for business and finance; and

7 WHEREAS, from 1982 to 1985, John served as president of
8 the university of New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, during his tenure as president of the university
10 of New Mexico, John was credited with increasing the number and
11 amount of presidential scholarships and raising funds for the
12 university of New Mexico foundation; and

13 WHEREAS, John was also instrumental in securing research
14 grants and funding for two engineering chairs; and

15 WHEREAS, at the time of his retirement, an *Albuquerque*
16 *Tribune* editorial described John's administration as one of
17 "slow, steady, peaceful and genuine progress – a kind of
18 progress that reflects the character of Perovich himself"; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1985, John was named president emeritus of the
20 university of New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, in addition to his academic career, John is also
22 very active in philanthropy; and

23 WHEREAS, John continued to honor the legacy and wishes of
24 Helen K. and Hugh B. Woodward through the establishment of the
25 Sandia foundation; and

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1 WHEREAS, John served as chairman of the board of the
2 Sandia foundation for forty-eight years; and

3 WHEREAS, under his prudent leadership, the corpus of the
4 Sandia foundation portfolio grew from four million dollars
5 (\$4,000,000) to eighty-eight million dollars (\$88,000,000)
6 today; and

7 WHEREAS, the Sandia foundation beneficiaries include the
8 university of New Mexico Woodward scholarship endowment,
9 Dickinson college in Pennsylvania and various nonprofits in
10 Albuquerque; and

11 WHEREAS, under John's steadfast leadership and the
12 guidance of the board of trustees, the Sandia foundation has
13 contributed over thirty-eight million dollars (\$38,000,000) to
14 the university of New Mexico Woodward scholarship endowment,
15 thirty-eight million dollars (\$38,000,000) to Dickinson college
16 and over eight million five hundred thousand dollars
17 (\$8,500,000) to Albuquerque nonprofits; and

18 WHEREAS, John was also on the board of trustees of the
19 Frank C. Hibben charitable trust and is a member of the
20 educational retirement board; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1994, John was awarded an honorary doctorate
22 of law degree from Dickinson college and was recognized for his
23 outstanding leadership contributions while serving as vice
24 president for business and finance and president of the
25 university of New Mexico and as chairman of the board of the

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1 Sandia foundation; and

2 WHEREAS, in his retirement, John continues to exercise
3 every day and has had time to perfect his golf game; and

4 WHEREAS, at age eighty-four, John shot his age by scoring
5 a forty-three on the front nine at the university of New Mexico
6 championship golf course and a forty-one on the back; and

7 WHEREAS, in a commencement speech to Maxwell high school,
8 John stated that "all of us need people: a role model, someone
9 we can look up to, admire and respect, someone who can motivate
10 and inspire us and, most importantly, good teachers to lead us
11 and help us find the way"; and

12 WHEREAS, John's friends describe him as very effective,
13 but in a quiet way; and

14 WHEREAS, John's wife, June, credits the longevity of their
15 marriage to "marrying a good man" who she thinks is "kinda
16 cute"; and

17 WHEREAS, John and June have two children, a son, Robert
18 Perovich, and a daughter, Jane Wilkinson;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that John Perovich be honored for his many
21 contributions from his life of service in the United States
22 army air corps to his dedication to higher education,
23 philanthropy and New Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that John Perovich be recognized
25 and acknowledged as a New Mexico treasure; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to John Perovich and his children.