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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

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 fifth 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  
home in the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation; and

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

5           WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation Council, the legislative branch  
6 of the Navajo Nation, has adopted a resolution forgiving Mr.  
7 McDonald for his crimes; and

8           WHEREAS, the President of the Navajo Nation is in support  
9 of obtaining an early release for Mr. McDonald; and

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

13          WHEREAS, through petitions and letters, Navajo Nation  
14 members, national political figures and many others have  
15 requested that the President of the United States provide an  
16 early release for Mr. McDonald;

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

21          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United  
22 States is hereby requested to commute the sentence of Peter  
23 McDonald and the New Mexico congressional delegation is hereby  
24 requested to support the commutation of Peter McDonald's  
25 sentence so that he can return home to the Navajo Nation; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the President of the Navajo Nation and the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council.

- 3 -

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1997  
3  
4

5 February 20, 1997  
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7 Mr. President:  
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9 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred  
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11 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19  
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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
14 recommendation that it DO PASS.  
15

16 Respectfully submitted,  
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21 Gloria Howes, Chairman  
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25 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 6 For 1 Against

Yes: 6

No: Stockard

Excused: Gorham

Absent: None

SJM19RU1

# **State of New Mexico House of Representatives**

**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

**March 15, 1997**

**Mr. Speaker:**

**Your VOTERS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, to whom has  
been referred**

**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19**

**has had it under consideration and reports same with  
recommendation that it DO PASS.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Edward C. Sandoval, Chairman**

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HVEC/SJM 19

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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

Yes: 7

Excused: Buffett, Coll, Lujan, Lutz, Nicely

Absent: None

M \SJ019

Underscored material = new  
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