



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
Dec. 7, 2004

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Governor Bill Richardson and First Lady to light state Christmas tree

Native American art to decorate New Mexico's tree in Washington D.C.

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson invite all New Mexicans to join them for the annual lighting of the State Christmas Tree in Santa Fe tomorrow, Wednesday, December 8, 2004.

The Santa Fe High School Choir will sing carols and Santa's elves will serve refreshments. Santa and Mrs. Claus also plan to be in attendance.

Prior to lighting the State Christmas Tree, Governor Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson will showcase a replica of New Mexico's Christmas tree, which will be lit by President Bush in Washington D.C. The duplicate tree will be on display in the lobby of Governor Richardson's office in the State Capitol. Decorations for New Mexico's Christmas tree and its duplicate were provided by the Native American Alliance Foundation.

Every year the President lights the National Christmas Tree, along with a tree for each state and commonwealth territory. In keeping with the historical opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, the organizing committee requested that the New

Mexico state Christmas tree be decorated with Native American art for the first time in history.

“This is an exciting concept, a well-deserved and long-awaited tribute to the role played by Native Americans in this country,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

Governor Richardson will greet and thank the Native American Alliance Foundation at **4:45 p.m. in the lobby of the Governor’s Office in the State Capitol on Wednesday, December 8.** The lighting of the State Christmas Tree will take place at **5:00 p.m. at the southwest corner of the State Capitol Grounds (Paseo de Peralta and Don Gaspar).**

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