



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
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Governor Richardson Takes Action to Honor Beloved New Mexico Artist R.C. Gorman

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson took executive action today to honor R. C. Gorman, an internationally-renowned Navajo artist and resident of Taos who passed away today. Governor Richardson ordered all state flags be flown at half staff tomorrow, November 4, 2005.

“I was extremely saddened to learn of the passing of R.C. Gorman today,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “He has been called the ‘Picasso of American Indian art’ and I think he was quite probably the premiere Indian artist of our time. I was able to say goodbye to him recently at University Hospital and I will miss his friendship. Like many of his collectors around the world, I feel lucky to have known him and honored to have some of the work he left behind.”

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-053

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF R.C. GORMAN

WHEREAS, famed Navajo artist, R.C. Gorman, passed away earlier today at the age of 74 after losing a battle against pneumonia and a blood infection;

WHEREAS, R.C. Gorman was born on the Navajo Nation in Chinle, Arizona and was the son of Navajo Code Talker Carl Gorman;

WHEREAS, R.C. Gorman was dubbed “the Picasso of American art,” by the New York Times and was internationally renowned for his paintings and sculptures of graceful female figures, often depicted as generously sized and draped in a blanket;

WHEREAS, prior to his passing R.C. Gorman resided in Taos, New Mexico and touched the lives of many people throughout the world through his art;

WHEREAS, R.C. Gorman will be remembered as one of the greatest Native American artists of our time; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff from Friday, November 4, 2005, until sundown on Saturday, November 5, 2005, in honor and mourning of R.C. Gorman. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to his family and friends.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS
3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2005

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO