



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Jon Goldstein
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

Governor Bill Richardson Honors 19-Year-Old Texico Bull Rider L.J. Jenkins

Cowboy Wins Professional Bull Riders Finals Title in Las Vegas

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson has honored 19-year-old Texico bull rider L.J. Jenkins who recently won the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) World Finals championship in Las Vegas, Nev., and a \$225,000 prize, by successfully riding six bulls in the eight-round competition. Governor Richardson has proclaimed November 22, 2006 as "L.J. Jenkins Day" throughout New Mexico.

Jenkins – currently ranked 7th in the world -- is among the youngest bull riders competing in PBR events today. He rode a calf to his first championship at eight years old and has been building an impressive record ever since—including his dramatic entrance into the PBR Association with a first place win on his eighteenth birthday, just hours after buying his permit

"L.J. is a great bull rider and a great young man," said Governor Richardson. "His championship, as well as his efforts for Hurricane Katrina survivors and contributions to the sport of rodeo in New Mexico, has made all of us proud."

In 2005, Jenkins donated five percent of his season earnings to support Hurricane Katrina victims and challenged other bull riders to follow his lead. He also recently graduated from high school with honors. Last year, L.J. represented the state of New Mexico at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming.

Governor Richardson has made promotion of the sport of rodeo in New Mexico a priority of his administration. These efforts have included creating the New Mexico Rodeo Council, pledging \$3 million to improve rodeo facilities at local fairgrounds across the state and \$10 million for a new equestrian facility.

The text of the Governor's proclamation follows:

***WHEREAS**, 19-year-old Texico, NM, cowboy L.J. Jenkins successfully rode six bulls in the eight-round Professional Bull Riders (PBR) World Finals championship to take the Finals title and \$225,000 prize on Sunday, November 5, 2006; and*

***WHEREAS**, among the youngest bull riders competing in PBR events today, L.J. rode a calf to his first championship at eight years old and has been building an impressive record ever since—including his dramatic entrance to the PBR world with a first place win on his eighteenth birthday, just hours after buying his permit; and*

***WHEREAS**, L.J. fought his way back to the top of the sport this year after a bull stepped on him in January, puncturing a lung and costing him six weeks of the season; and*

***WHEREAS**, in 2005, L.J. donated five percent of his season earnings to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina and challenged other bull riders to follow his lead; and*

***WHEREAS**, an excellent high school student who graduated with honors, L.J. also enjoys spending time with local elementary students, not only teaching them about rodeo, but also showing by example the value of integrity, generosity and perseverance toward a goal; and*

***WHEREAS**, we are proud of L.J.'s accomplishments, his contributions to Eastern New Mexico and the sport of rodeo in our state, and look forward to more great things to come;*

***NOW, THEREFORE I**, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim November 22, 2006 as:*

“L.J. Jenkins Day”

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest:

Rebecca Vigil-Giron

Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
17th day of November, 2006.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal

of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor

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