



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
October 2, 2006

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Governor Bill Richardson Lowers Flags for Concha Ortiz y Pino

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today ordered that flags be lowered in honor of Concha Ortiz y Pino, a former legislator, educator and community activist, who passed away Saturday at the age of 96.

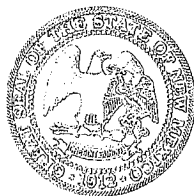
“The First Lady and I were saddened to hear of the passing of Concha Ortiz y Pino,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Her groundbreaking work as a state legislator, educator and community activist has left an indelible mark on New Mexico and opened the door for many who came after her.

“Concha was a treasure for the people of New Mexico; an avid protector of Hispano traditions. She fostered the activity of many important New Mexico artists and musicians. She’ll be sorely missed,” Governor Richardson said.

Governor Richardson in 2004 dedicated the former National Education Association building in Santa Fe in honor of Concha Ortiz y Pino. The state purchased the building earlier that year.

Concha Ortiz y Pino was born and raised in Galisteo. She attended Loretto Academy in Santa Fe, and following high school returned to Galisteo, where she founded the state’s first vocational school. She taught the traditional arts and crafts of New Mexico, including woodworking and weaving. Dona Concha was elected to the New Mexico State Legislature in 1936 at the age of 26. She was the first woman in the United States to be elected Majority Whip in a state legislature, and is believed to be the first Hispanic woman elected to a state legislature. She was re-elected twice.

Concha Ortiz y Pino served on many boards and foundations including the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra, the Board of Regents of the University of Albuquerque, the New Mexico Arts Commission, and the Albuquerque Hispanic Culture Foundation.



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EXECUTIVE ORDER 2006-061

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF MARIA CONCEPCION ORTIZ Y PINO DE KLEVEN

WHEREAS, Concha Ortiz y Pino de Kelven, who was one of the country's first Hispanic female legislators, an educator and community activist, passed away early Saturday morning at the age of 96;

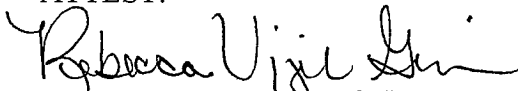
WHEREAS, Ortiz y Pino de Kelven was born in 1910 in Galisteo and attended Loretto Academy in Santa Fe, and following high school returned to Galisteo, where she founded the state's first vocational school. She taught the traditional arts and crafts of New Mexico, including woodworking and weaving;

WHEREAS, Ortiz y Pino de Kelven ran the family's 100,000-acre New Mexico ranch from 1951 until 1956, introducing electricity, plumbing and telephones. At the age of 26, she was elected to the New Mexico State Legislature for three terms, in 1936, 1938 and 1940. She became New Mexico's third female legislator, and by far it's most influential. In 1941, at age 30, unmarried and Hispanic, she became Democratic majority whip, the first female to hold such a position in a state government. At the end of her legislative career and then 32, Otriz y Pino de Kelven enrolled at the University of New Mexico. She was the first to graduate from UNM's Inter-American Affairs program. She served a year as dean of women at the College of St. Joseph, later the University of Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, Ortiz y Pino de Kelven served on many boards and foundations, including the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra, the Board of Regents of the University of Albuquerque, the New Mexico Arts Commission and the Albuquerque Hispanic Culture Foundation. Among her causes were letting women serve on juries, equalizing funding for urban and rural schools and mandatory Spanish-language instruction in seventh and eighth grades. Over the decades, five presidents, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter, appointed her to national boards such as the National Commission on Architectural Barriers, the National Advisory Council to the National Institutes of Health and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2004 Governor Richardson dedicated the former National Education Association building in Santa Fe in honor of Ortiz y Pino de Kelven.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff from Tuesday, October 3, 2006, until sundown on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, in honor and mourning of Concha Ortiz y Pino de Kelven. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to her family as well as a heartfelt thank you for her service and dedication to New Mexico.

ATTEST:



REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS
2ND DAY OF OCTOBER, 2006

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



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

