



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

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### **Governor Bill Richardson Honors Life of Concha Ortiz y Pino**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson released the following statement in memory of Concha Ortiz y Pino, a former legislator, educator and community activist, who passed away today:

“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.