



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-052

ORDERING FLAGS TO HALF-STAFF IN MEMORIAL OF GOVERNOR JERRY APODACA

Jerry Apodaca, Governor of New Mexico from 1975-1979, passed away on April 26, 2023, at age 88. Taking office after already having served in the New Mexico Senate for eight years, Governor Apodaca notably reorganized New Mexico government into the structure we recognize today: a cabinet system with department heads. Apodaca will be remembered for pushing for reforms in education, advocating for patients with chronic pain, and being instrumental in creation of the State's first medical cannabis program, as well as being one the first governors to regularly appoint women and people of color into leadership roles in New Mexico. In 1978, Apodaca was appointed as Chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness by President Jimmy Carter.

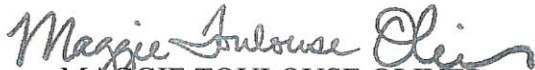
But Governor Apodaca's greatest legacy arguably stems from the years after he served in office. He was an advisor and role model for generations of Hispanic leaders, politicians, and business owners—roles in which he took pride and took seriously. Determined and gritty, Apodaca worked to make places and positions more accessible to minorities who historically rarely had such access. He also became involved in publishing Hispanic-audience periodicals and served as a member of the University of New Mexico Board of Regents from 1985 to 1991. The headquarters building for the New Mexico Department of Education was renamed for Apodaca in 2004.

Governor Apodaca will be remembered as a historic leader and as a man who truly made an impact on the world by paving the way for many more New Mexicans to enter public office and become leaders in our State and around the country. It is appropriate and proper to

acknowledge Governor Apodaca's life and service through a public period of mourning across New Mexico.

THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, 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 and DIRECT that all United States and State flags be flown at half-staff beginning April 28, 2023, and lasting through sundown of April 29, 2023. This action will serve to commemorate Governor Apodaca's distinguished life and to mourn his loss.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 27TH DAY OF APRIL 2023

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


MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

