
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER LYNDA LOVEJOY

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NEWS RELEASE

State Senate Honors Commissioner Lovejoy for Decades of Extensive Dedication to Public Service

SANTA FE – New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy was honored Thursday, February 5 – Native Indian Day at the Roundhouse – during the 2016 New Mexico State Legislative Session when State Senators recognized several years of accomplishments and selfless public service performed by Lovejoy.

Senator John Pinto, a 39-year veteran of the Senate, wrote in his recommendation for Lovejoy’s recognition, “No single Indian person has had a more storied political career than you. You served with honor and distinction, and were recognized by your colleagues as one of the most accomplished legislators.”

In fact, Lovejoy became the first Native American woman to ever serve in the New Mexico House of Representatives when she was elected to office in 1988, where she served for a decade.

“You added to your legendary history when you became the first American Indian woman to become a member of the Senate,” Senator Pinto continued. “This is an extraordinary American story.” Lovejoy served in the Senate from 2007 until 2012.

Commissioner Lovejoy, who presently represents NMPRC District 4 located in northwestern New Mexico, first served on the Commission from 1999 to 2006, and was again elected to that post in 2014, Senate Majority Floor Leader Michael Sanchez told the assemblage.

“One of your greatest contributions to our people was your honorable and humble campaign for the presidency of the Navajo Nation,” Senator Pinto wrote. He added that Lovejoy made a profound contribution to the expanded cultural views of the Navajo people. “This will be your legacy.”

One by one, approximately a dozen senators rose to add their voices and – in their own words – praised Lovejoy’s tireless efforts advocating legislation for equal education, addressing health disparities, developing programs to address poverty and hunger among the most vulnerable, and supporting tribal colleges as well as programs for the elderly. Lovejoy’s reputation for having “unquestionable integrity,” “treating people with respect,” “honoring protocol and decorum,” as well as being an advocate for consumers and setting the highest standards for public service were mentioned time and again.

At the conclusion of the Senate’s recognition of Lynda Lovejoy – Representative, Senator, and Commissioner Lovejoy – those in Senate Chambers heard: “The United States Congress and the President of the United States have taken notice, and refer to her as the Champion of American Indians in the nation. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the State of New Mexico that Lynda Lovejoy be honored for epitomizing the definition of public service...and that it extends its highest honor to Lynda Lovejoy as one of the most cherished and outstanding citizens of the State of New Mexico.”

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