



Office of the Governor

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor orders flags to half-staff in mourning for J. Paul Taylor**

*Flags to be at half-staff February 13 to 15*

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Monday ordered all flags in the state of New Mexico to half-staff from February 13 to 15 in honor of former state Rep. J. Paul Taylor, who passed away on Sunday.

Taylor was born in Chamberino in 1920 and served as a state representative from 1987 to 2005, during which he chaired the House Health and Human Services Committee. A strong advocate for arts and culture and bilingual education, he sponsored legislation that elevated the state Office of Cultural Affairs to a cabinet-level department. He was a teacher and administrator in the Las Cruces school system for 34 years.

The governor issued the following statement:

“You would be hard-pressed to find an individual as passionate about the people, culture and communities of New Mexico as J. Paul Taylor. For my own part, I consider him to be a friend and mentor who demonstrated the true heart of a servant, always striving to make New Mexico a better place to live for future generations. I have no doubt that the compassion and integrity he demonstrated throughout his 102 years of life will be felt for hundreds of years to come.

I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends – as well as the people of New Mexico – for the loss of such a legendary leader and advocate.”

The executive order directing all flags in New Mexico to half-staff from Monday, February 13 through sundown on Wednesday, February 15, can be found [here](#).

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