

REFERENCE TITLE: James Henderson; death resolution

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SCR 1020

Introduced by

Senators Hatathlie: Borrelli, Diaz, Epstein, Fernandez, Gabaldón,
Gonzales, Hernandez, Kavanagh, Marsh, Mendez, Miranda, Rogers, Terán;
Representatives Peshlakai, Tsosie

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JAMES HENDERSON, JR.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 The Honorable James Henderson, Jr. passed away on December 30, 2022
2 in Gallup, New Mexico, at the age of 80.

3 Born on May 15, 1942 in Ganado, Arizona, James Henderson, Jr. was a
4 member of the Navajo Nation who spent his life in service to his community
5 and the Navajo people. After graduating from Riverside Indian School in
6 Anadarko, Oklahoma, in 1963, he was drafted into the United States Army
7 and served in the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1968. He was awarded the
8 Purple Heart after being wounded in battle.

9 After being honorably discharged from the service, James Henderson,
10 Jr. attended Utah State University then embarked on his career in public
11 service, working for the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the
12 Bureau of Indian Affairs. He also served the Navajo Nation as the
13 Director of Range Management and the Director of Tribal Legislative
14 Affairs, and he served as the national commander for the Navajo Nation's
15 veterans' organization. In all, James Henderson, Jr. served as a
16 dedicated and effective employee of the Navajo Nation for 30 years. In
17 1985 James Henderson, Jr. was elected to serve as a member of the Arizona
18 State Senate, and throughout his seven terms of legislative service, he
19 served the constituents of district 3 with dedication and tenacity. He
20 was known as a strong advocate for veterans, including at the national
21 level, as well as for elderly individuals and youth. Senator Henderson
22 earned the well-deserved reputation as a conscientious and effective
23 public servant and was respected by his peers on both sides of the
24 political aisle.

25 James Henderson, Jr. will be greatly missed by his wife, Elaine, his
26 sister, Marcella, his sons and daughters, his many children and
27 great-grandchildren, and the citizens of the Navajo Nation and the State
28 of Arizona.

29 Therefore

30 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
31 Representatives concurring:

32 That the Members of the Legislature express their sympathies at the
33 passing of Senator James Henderson, Jr. and extend their condolences to
34 his surviving family members.