

REFERENCE TITLE: Sandra Day O'Connor; statuary hall

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HJR 2002

Introduced by
Representatives Gress: Dunn, Terech; Senators Alston, Bennett, Gowan

A JOINT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE THE PLACEMENT IN STATUARY HALL OF A STATUE OF JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION TO ORGANIZE AND DIRECT FUNDING FOR CREATION OF THE STATUE FOR PLACEMENT IN STATUARY HALL.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, in 1864, Congress established the National Statuary Hall in
2 the Old Hall of the House of Representatives in the United States Capitol
3 and authorized each state to contribute to the Hall two statues that
4 represent important historical figures of that state; and

5 Whereas, Arizona currently has statues on display in Statuary Hall
6 of Senator Barry Goldwater, which was added in 2015, and Father Eusebio
7 Kino, which was added in 1965. These are two acclaimed and distinguished
8 individuals of great importance in Arizona's history; and

9 Whereas, Father Eusebio Kino was born in the Territory of the
10 Bishopric of Trent, then part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German
11 Nation, on August 10, 1645. He was an Italian Jesuit, missionary,
12 geographer, explorer, cartographer, mathematician and astronomer. He
13 established the first mission in a river valley in the mountains of Sonora
14 and journeyed across northern Mexico to present-day California and
15 Arizona. Father Kino's maps were the most accurate of the region for more
16 than 150 years after his death. He interacted with 16 different Indian
17 tribes, including the Maricopa, Gila River Pima, Tohono O'odham, Western
18 Apache and Yavapai, and he established the San Xavier del Bac Mission near
19 Tucson. On July 11, 2020, Pope Francis declared Father Kino Venerable,
20 advancing the cause of Kino's sainthood; and

21 Whereas, legislation enacted by Congress in 2000 authorized any
22 state to request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve
23 the replacement of a statue the state has provided for display in Statuary
24 Hall under certain conditions; and

25 Whereas, it is appropriate at this time to consider honoring a
26 distinguished Arizonan who has played a significant role in our state's
27 history by placing her statutory in Statuary Hall, namely Justice Sandra
28 Day O'Connor. This action in no way seeks to diminish the positive
29 contributions of the two Arizonans already honored in Statuary Hall, and
30 every effort will be made to ensure that their legacy is preserved in our
31 great state; and

32 Whereas, it is appropriate that we honor Father Eusebio Kino's
33 legacy by placing his statue prominently and permanently in the Arizona
34 State Capitol building; and

35 Whereas, Sandra Day spent much of her childhood on her family's
36 198,000-acre cattle ranch near Duncan, Arizona. She rode horses,
37 participated in roundups, owned a .22-caliber rifle and shot coyotes. She
38 developed Southwestern grit that would serve her for the remainder of her
39 life. She attended Stanford University for her undergraduate and law
40 degrees, was an editor on the Stanford Law Review and graduated with
41 honors. She and her husband, John Jay O'Connor III, settled in Maricopa
42 County to start their family. From 1965 to 1969 she served as Assistant
43 Attorney General of Arizona. She served in the Arizona Senate and became
44 the first woman to serve as Arizona's Senate Majority Leader, the first in
45 the nation to hold this position for any state legislature; and

1 Whereas, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Maricopa County
2 Superior Court in 1974, and then rose to the Arizona Court of Appeals in
3 1979. In 1981 she was nominated by President Ronald Reagan for the United
4 States Supreme Court and was unanimously confirmed by the United States
5 Senate. Justice O'Connor served on the United States Supreme Court until
6 2006, nearly a quarter century, when she retired. Following her
7 retirement, she founded the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute for American
8 Democracy, based in Phoenix, to advance civil discourse, civic engagement
9 and civics education; and

10 Whereas, one of the few Supreme Court justices to have served in all
11 three branches of government, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was a
12 quintessential westerner and Arizonan with a longstanding reputation for
13 intelligence, fairness, compromise and bringing people together. Her
14 legacy has been a source of inspiration to Arizonans and Americans, and
15 the placement of a statue in her likeness in Statuary Hall would be a
16 well-deserved and lasting testament to her tremendous impact on both our
17 state and nation.

18 Therefore

19 Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

20 1. That the Members of the Fifty-sixth Legislature and the Governor
21 of the State of Arizona respectfully request that the Congress of the
22 United States return the statue of Father Eusebio Kino earlier presented
23 by the State of Arizona for placement in Statuary Hall and accept in
24 return, for placement in Statuary Hall, a statue of Justice Sandra Day
25 O'Connor.

26 2. That the Members of the Fifty-sixth Legislature and the Governor
27 of the State of Arizona direct the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission,
28 in collaboration with the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute, to organize a
29 solicitation for monies for the creation of a statue of Justice Sandra Day
30 O'Connor; to use the monies to acquire a statue for placement in Statuary
31 Hall in the Capitol of this nation; to select and contract with a gifted
32 and experienced sculptor to create a suitable statue of Justice Sandra Day
33 O'Connor; and to make the statue available for placement in Statuary Hall.

34 3. That the Members of the Fifty-sixth Legislature and the Governor
35 of the State of Arizona direct that the costs of the creation of the
36 statue of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, as well as the costs of
37 transporting the statue to Washington, D.C., and any incidental costs, be
38 borne by the State of Arizona through the use of private monies.

39 4. That the Secretary of State transmit copies of this Resolution to
40 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
41 States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of
42 Arizona, each Member of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress,
43 each Member of the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission and the
44 Cochairpersons of the Board of Directors and the President of the Sandra
45 Day O'Connor Institute.