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Congressional Record - The Northern Cheyenne Indians

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D. MONTANA)

UNVEILING OF STATUE OF SENATOR DENNIS CHAVEZ
IN THE U. S. CAPITOL

We meet, today, to honor a man whom we respected in life and whom we revere in memory. The name, Dennis Chavez, is the name of a relative, a friend, and a colleague. It is a name which means many things to many people.

To his family, it is the name of a beloved man. To his friends from home and here, it is the name of a warm and faithful man, a true son of the soil of New Mexico and a man equally at home in urban Washington. To his colleagues in the Senate, it is the name of a memorable Senator, a Senator's Senator, whose long and distinguished career has left a lasting mark upon the development of the State of New Mexico which he loved so well, and the nation which he served so diligently.

We are, all of us who have ^{served} or who still serve in the Senate and those who will - we are small parts of a great and continuing whole, always complete and never completed. As Senators, wherever we come from in the nation, we bring some contribution, however limited, and in so doing, leave a trace in this continuing whole before we pass on.

Today, we place a remembrance of ^{Senator} Dennis Chavez. It tells us that he has passed this way and left his mark. It tells us that his

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was a special contribution to the nation from New Mexico.

Dennis Chavez brought to the Senate the rare personal gifts of courage and dedication. He brought the iron of his self-made life and a compassion for the less-fortunate, born of his early struggle out of poverty. He brought these gifts to the Senate, enriched by a profound self-education through reading and formal education in the law.

He wrapped these gifts in a unique cultural contribution. For the name Dennis Chavez came out of the Iberian tradition, several centuries old, in the Southwest. This good, loyal, able, and courageous man carried that tradition ^{so evident here in this Rotunda} which, at its apex, spread from Spain to the Americas and to the Philippines. He carried it, in his person, into the Senate and, hence, into the fullness of the culture of the United States.

So Dennis Chavez is honored now in memory by this replica. He is honored for a life of service, as a New Mexican, as a Senator, and as an outstanding American.