

# POPÉ, SAVIOR OF PUEBLO CULTURE

Popé, who was the leader of the first American Revolution, has been recognized throughout history as the man who made it possible for Pueblo culture to live and to sustain itself through the centuries. The nineteen New Mexico Pueblos and the Hopi in Arizona attribute their ability to continue their traditions and way of life to the efforts of the Pueblo Revolt and its leader, Popé.

Placing the statue of Popé in our nation's capital offers our state a unique position in the National Statuary Hall. It honors an event that took place in 1680, making Popé the earliest specific individual to be so honored. In addition, Cliff Fragua, of Jemez Pueblo, will be the first American Indian artist to sculpt a statue that will sit in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. Finally, this will be the first and only statue that celebrates Pueblo culture and, correspondingly, the uniqueness and richness of life in the American Southwest. New Mexico has a rich culture and heritage that is admired the world over. American Indians across the country admire our Pueblos, where the culture, spiritual traditions, and dances from over a thousand years ago are still preserved.

The New Mexico Statuary Hall Commission, with direction from the New Mexico Legislature, has called for the design and creation of a statue of the illustrious San Juan Pueblo Indian strategist and warrior, who was renowned, respected and revered by the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico as a visionary leader. The Popé statue will join a figure of the late Senator Dennis Chavez as New Mexico's two contributions to the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

## Popé: Artist's Statement

*"My rendition of Popé depicts a simple man, one who is concerned for survival of his family, his culture, and the history and beliefs of the Pueblo People. His actions against the Spaniards were not acts of defiance, but rather, acts of survival. In the eyes of the Pueblo People, the world would be doomed if the Spaniards were allowed to continue the suppression of the centuries-old Native religion and beliefs. The songs and ceremonies had to be performed so the world would continue to spin and the rains would continue their blessings.*

*Popé was not a trained fighter, but a man who tended gardens, hunted, and participated in the Kiva ceremonies. He was a religious man who was responsible for making sure the ceremonial calendar was followed. He was also responsible for the well-being of his family and community, and provided for them through his hunting and farming.*

*In my rendition, he holds in his hands items that will determine the future existence of the Pueblo People. The knotted cord in his left hand was used to determine when the Revolt would begin. (As to how many knots were used is debatable, but I feel that it must have taken many days to plan and notify most of the Pueblos.) The bear fetish in his right hand symbolizes the center of the Pueblo world, the Pueblo religion. The pot behind him symbolizes the Pueblo culture, and the deerskin he wears is a humble symbol of his status as a provider.*

*The necklace that he wears is a constant reminder of where life began, and his*

*clothing consists of a loin cloth and moccasins in Pueblo fashion. His hair is cut in Pueblo tradition and bound in a chongo. On his back are the scars that remain from the whipping he received for his participation and faith in the Pueblo ceremonies and religion."*—Cliff Fragua, sculptor



The decision to honor Popé is the culmination of years of effort by Herman Agoyo of San Juan Pueblo, Co-Chairman of the New Mexico Statuary Hall Commission.

*"To the Pueblo people here, Popé is our hero. Tribes were on the verge of losing their cultural identity when the Pueblo Revolt brought everything back on track for our people."*—Herman Agoyo

## DONATIONS WELCOME

Donations are being welcomed to help defray the expenses of producing this statue. Any size donation is welcome. As a thank you, donors of larger amounts receive **limited bronze editions** of the statue as follows:

Donation level	Edition received
\$5,000–9,999	17" Maquette
\$10,000–49,000	36" Statue
\$50,000 & above	7' Statue

### Donation to Assist in Popé Statue Project

Name /Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Make checks payable to:

**New Mexico Statuary Hall Foundation**

c/o NM Indian Affairs Department

Wendell Chino Building

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

505/476-1600

*The Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(C)(3) Corporation. Thank you.*

## **The New Mexico Statuary Hall Commission**

Created by the New Mexico Legislature and originally established by former Governor Gary Johnson, the New Mexico Statuary Hall Commission is directing the process necessary for New Mexico to have its second statue placed in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol Complex in Washington, D.C.

Members of the Commission, appointed by Governor Bill Richardson, include: Herman Agoyo (Co-Chairman) of San Juan Pueblo; Rochelle Thompson (Co-Chair) of the Governor's Staff; Benny Atencio of Santo Domingo Pueblo; Jill Cooper of Santa Fe; Joe S. Sando of Jemez Pueblo; Marcia Keegan of Santa Fe; Benny Shendo, Jr., Secretary, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department; Robert Vigil, State Treasurer; and Stuart Ashman, Secretary, New Mexico Cultural Affairs Department.

## **New Mexico Statuary Hall Foundation Members**

The New Mexico Statuary Hall Foundation, a 501 (C) (3) corporation, has been created to collect tax-free donations to offset the cost of the Popé statue project. The members of the foundation are: Pamela Agoyo, President; Edson Way, Vice-President; Robert Mirabal, Secretary-Treasurer; Suzan Shown Harjo, Donna Humetewa, Cathy Newby, Jan Stevens, and Elizabeth Sackler.

## **The Book about Popé**

*Pope: Architect of the First American Revolution, August 10, 1680* by Joe S. Sando—with contributions by Herman Agoyo, Co-Chairman of the Commission, and other Commissioners—will be published by Clear Light Publishers when the statue is placed in Washington. This book will include the history of Popé and the Pueblo Revolt as well as quotes from today's leaders about why Popé inspires them today. The book will also chronicle the historical making of the seven-foot Tennessee marble statue with pictures and quotes from people watching and interacting with the artist. It will be a celebration of New Mexico's culturally rich present as well as its history.



## **ART IN THE U.S. CAPITOL**

### **National Statuary Hall Collection**

The National Statuary Hall houses a part of the Capitol's collection of statues donated by the individual states in commemoration of their notable citizens. The entire collection now consists of 98 statues contributed by 50 states. Forty-eight states have contributed two statues each. Two states are eligible to donate one additional statue to the Capitol: Nevada and New Mexico.

The National Statuary Hall was created by law of Congress on July 2, 1864: "The President is hereby authorized to invite each and all the States to provide and furnish statues, in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services."

**New Mexico  
Statuary Hall Foundation**  
c/o NM Indian Affairs Department

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# *Popé*



**National Statuary Hall  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C.**