



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

CSG West In Remembrance

The CSG West family recently lost three members – Nevada Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, New Mexico Senator John Pinto, and Oregon Senator Jackie Winters. All were dedicated public servants who's work strengthened both their communities and their legislative institutions.

Nevada [Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson](#) passed away on May 4, he was only 51 years old. Although his life was cut short far too soon, he made significant impacts to improve the lives of children and families in the State of Nevada. Assemblyman Thompson was appointed to represent North Las Vegas in the Nevada Assembly in 2013 and was reelected three times. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the Assembly Education Committee. Engaged in the work of CSG West, he was an alumnus of the Western Legislative Academy (Class of 2014) and served on the Education and Workforce Committee during the 2017-18 biennium. He also was an alumnus of CSG's Henry Toll Fellowship program (Class of 2016). His genuine warmth, smile and positive demeanor will be missed.

On May 24, New Mexico [Senator John Pinto](#) passed away at the age of 94. First elected in 1977, Senator Pinto was the most senior member of the New Mexico Senate. He was a dedicated public servant committed to improving the lives of the Native communities he represented. Senator Pinto was a Marine Corp veteran and a member of the elite group of Navajo service members who used the Navajo language to develop an unbreakable code to transmit military messages in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He was one of the last living Code Talkers and received Congressional Silver Medals in 2001. A consistent attendee of CSG West annual meetings, Senator Pinto enjoyed



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engaging and sharing his experiences with Western policy-makers. Throughout his involvement with the organization he served on several CSG West committees.

Oregon [Senator Jackie Winters](#) passed on May 29 leaving a significant legislative legacy. Serving in both the House of Representatives and Senate, she was the first African American Republican elected to the legislature and later became the first African American to hold the position of Senate Minority Leader. Senator Winters was a passionate advocate for criminal justice reform and helped pass [recent legislation](#) set to address juvenile sentencing standards. In 2012, Senator Winters became an alumnus of CSG's Henry Toll Fellowship program and participated as a member of the CSG West Executive Committee from 2017-18.

The CSG West family mourns the loss of Assemblyman Thompson, Senator Pinto and Senator Winters. The lasting impressions they made through their community connections and legislative work have left an indelible mark on the legislatures they served. They will be deeply missed and CSG West pays tribute to their service.