



# NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Marcus Silva, [msilva@naleo.org](mailto:msilva@naleo.org)  
(510) 456-5444

## **NALEO Mourns the Loss of Former New Mexico Governor and NALEO Board Member Bill Richardson**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) has issued the following statement from NALEO President E. Junior Maldonado on the passing of former New Mexico Governor and NALEO Board Member William Blaine Richardson III:

“The passing of former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson is an incredible loss for America. With a career spanning over three decades, Governor Richardson was a stalwart public servant and iconic Latino leader who served on the front lines for his community in Congress all the way up to the international stage as a Nobel Peace Prize-nominated advocate and negotiator — who most recently helped negotiate the release of [WNBA star Brittney Griner](#) from Russian captivity.

“Governor Richardson’s example of life-long dedication to his country is an inspiration for Latinos and all Americans. His environmental work, international diplomacy, and advocacy for Americans abroad established him as a historic figure in American government and international politics.

“In addition to being a NALEO Board Member, Governor Richardson was awarded the Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service in 2008. NALEO is proud of the example he set throughout his career and applauds his hard work and determination to improve the lives of New Mexicans, Americans abroad, and all those who call America their home. Our hearts and thoughts are with his family and former colleagues during this difficult time.

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### **About NALEO**

*The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation’s more than 7,000 Latino elected and appointed officials.*