

**Biographical Information for Kurt Riley
Governor, Pueblo of Acoma**

**“Public Witness Testimony: FY 2019 Appropriations”
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

April 30, 2018

Kurt Riley is currently serving his third term as the Appointed Governor of the Pueblo of Acoma, before which he served as the 2nd Lt. Governor in 2015. Governor Riley also serves as the Chairman of the Ten Southern Pueblos Council and sits on the All Pueblo Council of Governors, where he Co-Chairs the APCG Health Committee.

Governor Riley is a Graduate of the University of New Mexico. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy from UNM in 1983. As a licensed pharmacist in New Mexico, he worked in the private sector before being commissioned in the United States Public Health Service, Commissioned Corps. It was this opportunity that led him to work for the Indian Health Service. Governor Riley worked his entire career in the Albuquerque Area working as a Pharmacist, Chief Pharmacist, Area Pharmacy Consultant, Health Center Director, Quality Assurance Director, Administrative Officer and Chief Executive Officer. He has overseen clinics and health initiatives of all sizes and in various communities in New Mexico. He retired after 30 years of government service as a Captain in the Commissioned Corps. Governor Riley continues his work in the field of health by being active in health policies, initiatives, and discussions at federal and local levels.

On behalf of the Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo Country, and indigenous communities across the United States, Governor Riley serves as a leading voice in the movement to strengthen federal protections for items of tribal cultural patrimony. Governor Riley has testified before Congress, participated in both federal and civil roundtable discussions, and met with the heads of numerous federal agencies to advance this issue. With the strong support of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, Congress adopted the PROTECT Patrimony Resolution supporting efforts to stop the illegal trafficking of tribal patrimony in December 2016. Governor Riley continues to work with Congress and other officials to broaden the scope of federal safeguards for tribal cultural property rights and sacred patrimony, particularly in regards to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.