

THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT LEARNS WITH GREAT SORROW OF THE PASSING OF PETE CENARRUSA, A KEY HISTORICAL FIGURE FOR THE BASQUE COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

- **The Lehendakari has sent his sincere condolences to Cenarrusa's wife in a letter and telegram.**
- **The Delegate of the Basque Country in the United States, Ander Caballero, will attend the funeral services to be held this Thursday and Friday in Boise.**

It is with great sorrow that the Basque Government has learned of the death of Pete T. Cenarrusa Gardoqui, a Basque-American and a great friend and tireless supporter of the Basque Country and of the Basque people in the United States.

The Basque Country and the whole Basque community abroad have lost a key figure in the relations between the Basque Country and its Diaspora. Pete Cenarrusa was an active supporter of the External Action of the Basque Government.

Lehendakari Iñigo Urkullu, the Basque President, has sent his condolences and affection to the wife and people closest to Cenarrusa, as well as, on behalf of all Basques, passed on their gratitude for his immense work and commitment to the Basque Country.

PETE CENARRUSA, AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY:

Born in Carey (Idaho) in 1917, the son of José and Ramona, Basque immigrants from Bizkaia who became sheep ranchers, Cenarrusa grew up, along with his four siblings, in Bellevue, a town in the State of Idaho, in a close-knit, Basque-speaking family.

Cenarrusa graduated with a Degree in Agriculture, was an educator, member of the Marine Corps and an officer in the US Air Force, a keen pilot and rancher. He was a member of the Republican Party and embarked on his political career in 1950. He was elected as a Representative to the Idaho House of Representatives for nine terms and was selected as leader of the Republican Party and Speaker of the State House for three terms. He served as Idaho Secretary of State for 36 years. He was the longest serving elected officer in Idaho history.

In all aspects of his life, he was a strong advocate of the Basque language, his mother tongue, and Ikastola projects (Basque-speaking schools) and supported the Basque resistance under Franco's dictatorship and the Basque Government in exile. After 1975, Cenarrusa travelled to the Basque Country on many occasions.

In 2003 he set up the Cenarrusa Foundation, followed by the Center for Basque Studies at Boise State University, which is currently the largest center for Basque studies in the world in terms of number of students.

It should be noted his relentless effort to bring peace to the Basque Country. Proof of that would be the Declaration that he promoted being unanimously approved by both chambers of the Idaho State Legislature in 2012.

THE DELEGATE OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN THE U.S. WILL ATTEND THE FUNERAL IN BOISE

The Delegate of the Basque Country in the United States, Ander Caballero, will attend the funeral for Pete Cenarrusa to be held this week in Boise. The official funeral will be held on Thursday, October 3rd, and the Basque community in Idaho will say their farewell to him on Friday, October 4th.

Ander Caballero will represent the Basque Government at those services as a sign of respect and gratitude for Pete Cenarrusa's commitment to the Basque Country.