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A Tribute to Loretta R. Valerio

Members of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (the Board) wish to pay tribute to Loretta R. Valerio who resigned June 6, 2026, from the Board after her long and distinguished tenure. Loretta was appointed to the Board by President Barack Obama in 2012. Prior to serving on the Board, Loretta worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory and served as a caseworker for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation program in Espanola, New Mexico. At Los Alamos

On August 27, 2007, then New Mexico's Governor Bill Richardson announced Loretta's appointment as director of the newly established Office of Nuclear Worker's Advocacy; the only such office in the United States at the time. Her office was designed to act as a liaison between claimants and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Resource Center, union officials, DOE contractors, retiree groups, and others to help and guidance to those who encounter obstacles in the adjudication of their claim. Having been a case worker, she understood the complex process of applying, documenting, and following-up with the federal government when current or former workers, as well as eligible survivors of Department of Energy workers file claims. Clients dropping by her Santa Fe government office were greeted by a life-sized cardboard cut-out figure of singer George Strait, attired in his starched white shirt and cowboy hat, a gift from two grateful claimants who shared Loretta's appreciation for the country crooner.

Loretta was a hardworking and conscientious member of both the Board's Subcommittees--the Subcommittee for Procedure Reviews and Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews. She also served on many Board Working Groups including was Metals and Controls, Argonne East, Ames, Blockson, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, X10, Y12, Rocky Flats and Use of Surrogate Data. She asked pertinent questions about worksite processes and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health staff's dose reconstruction methods and questioned the Board's technical contractor staff during Board and Working Group meetings.

The Board has benefitted from and will remember her soft-spoken manner and good company during meetings.

Inasmuch as Loretta has made significant contributions to the ongoing work of the Board during her 14 years of membership, we who remain as members of the Board gratefully thank her for her service. She has served the Board and this country well.

This tribute is hereby adopted on this 18th day of June, 2026, at the 166th meeting of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.