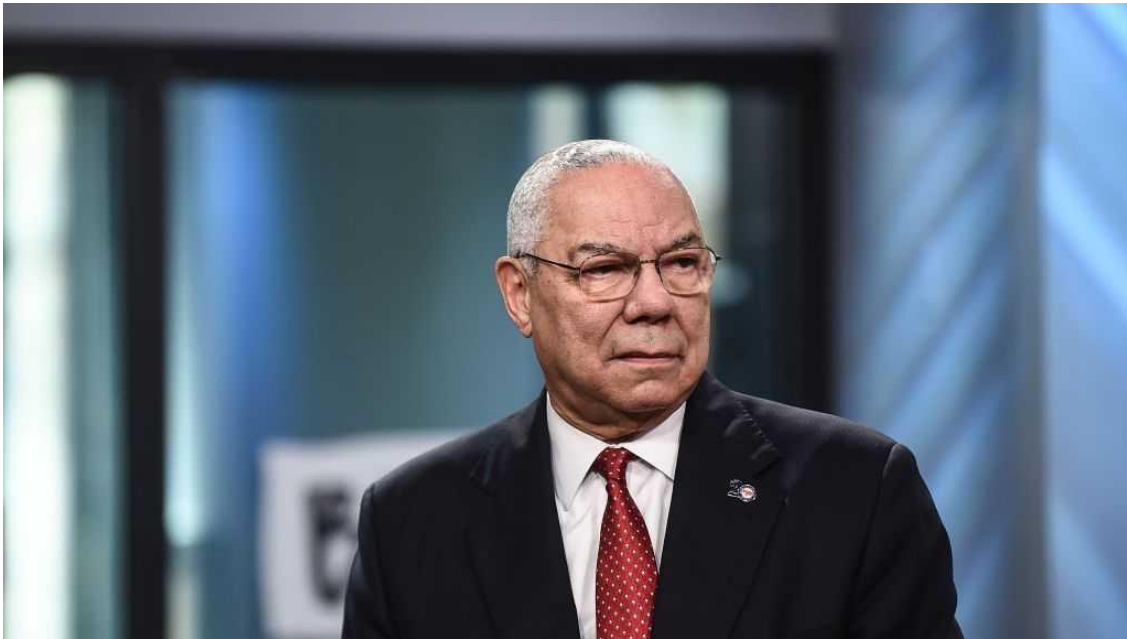




## REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO CHAIRMAN STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF GEN. COLIN POWELL



**Albuquerque, October 18--**The following is a statement from Republican Party of New Mexico Chairman Steve Pearce on the passing of former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell:

“Today our nation lost a truly great American hero, a genuine trailblazer and an inspirational leader. I knew Gen. Powell and worked with him while he was Secretary of State. He was a pioneer and a man trusted by America and the entire world. Gen. Powell was a soldier, a

patriot and a diplomat who helped shape foreign policy in some of our most difficult times. I knew him as a man of great integrity, who not only broke racial barriers in government but also served America with extraordinary distinction, honor and with a true understanding of American values. He was a revered public servant who had vision, courage and distinguished himself as a great military leader on the global stage. He will be greatly missed."