



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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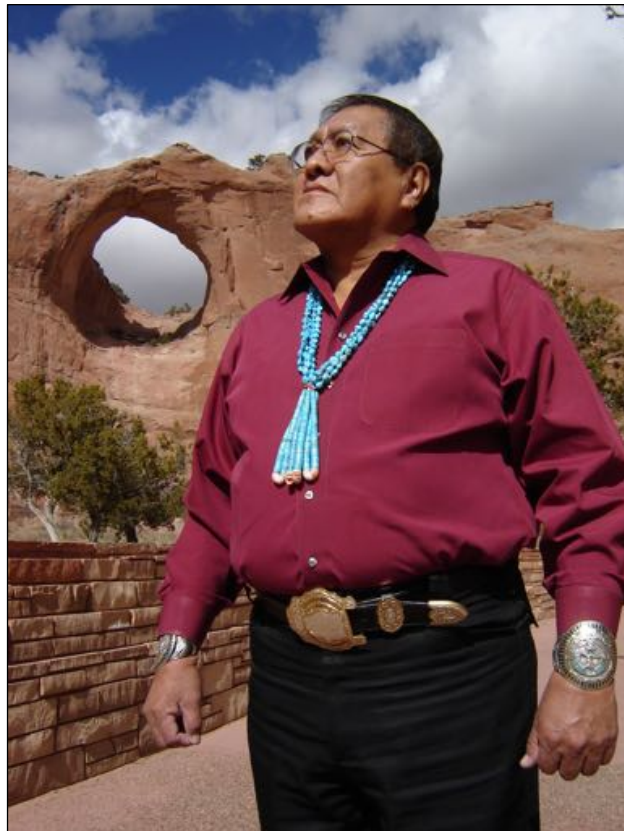
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30, 2022

Navajo Nation pays tribute to the life and service of former Arizona State Senator James Henderson, Jr.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer offer their condolences and prayers for the family of former Arizona State Senator James Henderson, Jr., who passed away in Gallup, N.M. on Friday, at the age of 80. Henderson is a member of the Navajo Nation and was born on May 15, 1942 in Ganado, Ariz.

Henderson graduated from Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Oklahoma. He was drafted into the U.S Army in 1966 and served in the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1968, and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for being wounded in battle. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he began working for the Arizona Department of Economic Security and later worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In addition, he served the Navajo Nation as the director of range management and director of tribal legislative affairs. In 1985, Henderson was elected to serve as a member of the Arizona State Senate, representing District 3 until 1999.



“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we offer our thoughts and prayers to the family and community of our Diné leader, James Henderson, Jr. Throughout his lifetime, he demonstrated outstanding commitment and service for the Navajo people and the state of Arizona. We honor him and thank his family for their contributions and sacrifices to our state and communities. May his wife, Elaine, and his family take comfort in knowing that he is now with God. We offer our thoughts and prayers during this time,” said President Nez.

Throughout his public service, Henderson was known as a strong advocate for veterans, elders, and youth. He also served as the national commander for the Navajo Nation's veterans' organization and helped to advocate for Navajo veterans at the national level.

"Senator Henderson was truly a blessing for our people and the entire state of Arizona. His spirit will continue to live on through the teachings, wisdom, and the legacy that he leaves behind. Through our faith, we know that he is with God and that he is now watching over his loved ones. We offer our prayers and we pay tribute to the life he lived and all that he gave," said Vice President Lizer.

Henderson is survived by his wife Elaine Henderson, sister Marcella Hubbard his daughters, Dr. Sharon Henderson, Valerie Henderson, Karlene Henderson, Valencia Henderson, Clarissa Henderson-Smith, Jamesina Henderson, and Adrienne Moya, his sons Alton Henderson, Jaime Henderson and Marcus Henderson, Jeffrey Moya, and Daniel Moya, 46 grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Phoebe Henderson, siblings Milton Henderson, Ruth Ann Henderson and Melinda Henderson.

The point of contact for the family is Dr. Sharon Henderson who can be reached by phone at (480) 492-6559. Donations for the family can be sent via Zelle to Tobyjhr@gmail.com.

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