

Contact: Karen Francis, Public Information Officer  
Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker  
(928) 871-7160  
karenfrancis@navajo.org  
www.navajonationcouncil.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday, August 16, 2005

### **STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Ladies and gentlemen I offer my respects to the family of the late Raymond Nakai, Sr. Like many Navajo citizens, I was surprised and saddened to hear the news of his passing.

Chairman Nakai is a man of great integrity. His chairmanship lead the Navajo tribe through what I can best describe as a transitional period for our government.

The late Chairman Raymond Nakai deserves the respect we owe him. In fact, his work speaks for itself. His administration strengthened the integrity of the Navajo Tribe, while at the same time made strides in moving the Navajo people forward.

For many Navajo families, Chairman Nakai represented hope and clarity. He was straight-forward, seemingly always knowing what he wanted, and inevitably, succeeding on behalf of his people.

Today we mark an occasion, a turning point in the history of our government. We acknowledge the path from which we walked, and we look forward, with much anticipation, with great hope, that we will reach the salvation that all great governments yearn, and all great leaders promise.

Ladies and gentlemen, Chairman Nakai has demonstrated to us the very idea of “moving toward becoming that which we think about.” During his leadership he often talked about elevating his people. With his contributions, we have seen many accomplishments come to pass for our great Navajo Nation.

We are indebted to his service, for his service has reached out to us.

We are honored by his leadership, for his leadership has changed the world we live in.

Most importantly, we are grateful for his life, for his life has touched each and every one of us.

To do its part, the Navajo Nation government will host a public memorial service on Wednesday, August 17, 2005. The service will begin at 4:00 pm at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Arizona.

We encourage the public to attend the memorial service, to pay respect to a great family man, and a wonderful person.

We have gained much from Chairman Nakai's leadership. We have learned a great deal from him.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council offers its prayers and deepest respect for the late Chairman Raymond Nakai, Sr.

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