



Navajo Nation honors the life of Community Leader and Former Arizona State Representative Daniel Peaches

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KAYENTA, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council offer their condolences to the family of respected community leader and former Daniel Peaches, who passed away on Tuesday.

Daniel Peaches was born near Kayenta by the Diversion Dam and was Tódich'ii'nii (Bitter Water Clan), born for Tł'izí lání (Many Goats Clan) and Kintichii'nii (The Red House People Clan).

After graduating from Tuba City High School in 1962, Peaches then graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1967. A graduate student at the University of New Mexico, he proudly studied Indian Law. Raised on the western portion of the Navajo Nation, he first served as coordinator at Chilchinbeto Chapter before being elected to the 19th Navajo Nation Council in 1999. Peaches was later selected as the Kayenta Township Manager from 2006 to 2008.



PHOTO: Community leader Daniel Peaches.

“Honorable Daniel Peaches is a loving father, grandfather, and beloved husband who was revered in his community for his leadership and kind spirit. He leaves behind an impressive legacy of public service being appointed by then-Chairman Peter MacDonald as the Director of Public Information and then serving over fourteen years as an Arizona State Representative. Beloved by all who knew him, Mr. Peaches was a humble and caring man who deeply loved his family and the community he served. The Navajo people send prayers of protection to give strength to his family during this time,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

In 1971, Arizona Governor Jack Williams appointed him to serve on the Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs. Then in June 1988, Peaches was appointed to the Board of Regents for then-Navajo Community College by Chairman Peter MacDonald to advance the first tribal college in the United States.

Following these years, President Richard Nixon appointed Peaches to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education where he spent three years as chairman advocating for teachers and their students. In December 2020, Peaches retired after 35 years on the Navajo County Community College Governing Board, serving his sixth and final term.

“As Diné, our first leadership begins with our parents, grandparents, and community at home. Our language and prayers help lead and ground us. Mr. Peaches was a practicing medicine man who helped many families - a healer our Nation has lost. We express our deepest condolences to the Peaches family and may our prayers keep them strong,” said Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Dennehotso, Kayenta, Chííłchinbii'tó).

Daniel Peaches will be laid to rest on Friday, April 8, 2022, in Black Mesa, Ariz. Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown will officially present a Navajo Nation Flag to the family to honor his years of service to the Navajo people and the citizens of Arizona.

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