President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez were saddened to learn about the passing of former Navajo Vice Chairman Frank E. Paul on Monday, Nov. 14.

Paul was 82 years-old when he passed away at his home in Pinehill, N.M., from complications of Parkinson’s disease.

“The Navajo Nation lost a great leader in Frank E. Paul,” said President Begaye. “He was an advocate for education and was the first person from his community to attain a bachelor’s degree. Our prayers go out to his family.”

He was born on May 3, 1934, in Pinehill, N.M., to Frank Jesus Eriacho and Ruth Coho Jake.

Paul served as vice chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council from 1979 to 1983, under the leadership of Chairman Peter MacDonald. He had also served as the BIA superintendent for the Western Navajo Agency.

In 1957, Frank E. Paul was drafted into the United State Army serving during peacetime. He served for four years.

“Beyond his service as vice chairman, Paul also served as Ramah Chapter president and was a State Representative for New Mexico’s District 5,” Vice President Nez said. “He was able to affect representation and legislation at local and state levels which is a great legacy.”

Having passed away from complications of Parkinson’s disease, it was his wish that his body be given to scientific research to assist in finding a cure for the disease.

He leaves his wife Barbara L. Paul of 56 years, his son Navin Paul and daughter Teena Peterson. He is preceded in death by his daughter Trudy Paul.

Paul’s service is Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016, at 10:00 am at the Pinehill High School gymnasium, eight miles south of the Ramah Chapter.

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