



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Nez-Lizer pay tribute to former long-time White Mountain Apache Tribal Chairman Ronnie Lupe**

**WINDOW ROCK** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer offer their thoughts and prayers for the White Mountain Apache Tribe and for the family of the honorable Ronnie Lupe, who served as the Chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe for 36 years before leaving office in May 2018 after his decision to not seek a tenth term.

Former Chairman Lupe passed away on Monday morning at the age of 89. Prior to his service as chairman, Lupe served in the U.S. Marine Corps and as a member of White Mountain Apache Tribal Council.



**PHOTO: Former White Mountain Apache Tribal Chairman Ronnie Lupe in May 2018 (Photo courtesy of White Mountain Independent).**

“I had the honor of knowing Chairman Lupe during my time as a Navajo County Supervisor. He was a man of great compassion, he loved his family, his people, and everything that we as Indigenous people continue to fight for and preserve for our children and grandchildren,” said President Nez. “He was a strong leader who did not shy away from challenging the federal government on many issues, but he did so in a respectful and tactful way.”

White Mountain Apache Tribal Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood also offered condolences for his family, friends, and constituents. Prior to taking office in 2018, the current Chairwoman worked with Chairman Lupe under his administration.

Chairwoman Lee-Gatewood stated, “We’ve lost one of the most influential, courageous and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this Earth.”

Vice President Lizer recalled Chairman Lupe as a family man and an influential voice for decades across Indian Country.

“Today is a sad day for us all, including our brothers and sisters of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. We ask our Diné people to join us in prayer as we ask the Creator for comfort and blessings upon his family, his children, and many others that had the honor of knowing him,” stated Vice President Lizer.

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