



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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President Nez orders flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory of former Navajo Nation President Thomas Atcitty

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation calling for all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff beginning on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 through Monday, Oct. 19, 2020, in honor and memory of former Navajo Nation President Thomas Atcitty who passed away on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, at the age of 86-years-old.

“This proclamation is to honor all of the great work and contributions of our leader, the late Thomas Atcitty. We also want to recognize and thank his wife, Vicky, their children and entire family for the sacrifices they made as well. The entire Navajo Nation is grieving the loss of a compassionate and loving leader and family man. We ask all of our Diné people to join us in honoring former President Atcitty and to offer prayers for his family, friends, and his community,” said President Nez.



Atcitty served as the Vice President of the Navajo Nation from 1995 to 1998, and as President from February 1998 to July 1998. Prior to serving the Navajo Nation, he served seven terms as a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives from 1980 to 1994. From 1972 to 1977, Atcitty served as the President of Navajo Community College, which later became Diné College.

“We will always cherish his work and his leadership for the Navajo people. Through the signing of this proclamation, we pay tribute to his life and all the great things that he accomplished in his personal life and for the Navajo people. As the President of Navajo Community College, he helped build the foundation for the present-day Diné College, which continues to serve many Navajo

students. His service will continue to have lasting impacts on the Navajo Nation,” stated Vice President Lizer.

Atcitty was born on Nov. 1, 1933 and was a lifelong resident of Shiprock, N.M. Prior to his public service, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and graduated from Taylor University. Thomas Atcitty is survived by his wife of 54-years, Vicky Atcitty, their three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

The proclamation calls for all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff beginning on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 through Monday, Oct. 19, 2020, in honor of former President Atcitty.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
FORMER NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT THOMAS ATCITY**

THE NAVAJO NATION is greatly saddened by the loss of our Diné Leader Thomas Atcity, former Vice President and President of the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, Atcity served the United States in the United States Marine Corps before being honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, Atcity served seven terms as a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives from 1980 to 1994 prior to serving the Navajo People as the Vice President of the Navajo Nation from 1995 to 1998 and President from February 1998 to July 1998; and

WHEREAS, Atcity served as the President of Navajo Community College from 1972 to 1977, and played an instrumental role in the development of Diné College; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation honors the late Thomas Atcity, for his honorable service, leadership, and compassion for the Diné People; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his family, friends, and community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation do hereby order that all flags on the Navajo Nation shall be flown at half-staff to honor the memory and service of the late Thomas Atcity from October 16, 2020 through October 19, 2020.

PROCLAIMED THIS 15th DAY OF OCTOBER 2020

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, *President*

THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Myron Lizer in black ink.

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*

THE NAVAJO NATION