



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and remembrance of former Diné lawmaker Nelson S. BeGaye

.WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation on Saturday, ordering all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff in honor and remembrance of longtime Navajo Nation Council member Nelson S. BeGaye, who passed away on Thursday at the age of 69, after a long battle with cancer.

“We invite the Navajo people to join in offering prayers for the family, friends, and colleagues of our naat’áanii, the honorable Nelson BeGaye. To his wife Linda, their children, grandchildren, and many other loved ones, we offer our condolences and prayers. For several years, I had the honor of serving alongside Honorable BeGaye as members of the Council. He helped many people during his years of service and always guided and mentored many along the way.

We pray for strength and comfort for his family and all who had the honor of knowing him,” said President Nez.



BeGaye was originally from Lukachukai, Arizona. He was Tó'aheedlíinii and born for T ł 'ááshchí'í. His maternal grandfather was Kinyaa'áanii and his paternal grandfather was Dibézhíní. He began his service as a member of the 20th Navajo Nation Council in 2003 and announced his resignation in July 2019 due to health concerns, several months after being elected to his fifth term in office.

He served as a member of the Resources and Development Committee, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and the Síhasin Subcommittee. He

played an instrumental role in several major achievements including the San Juan River Settlement Act in 2010 and helping to secure the largest tribal settlement with the federal government in 2014, which led to the establishment of the Síhasin Fund that continues to benefit many Navajo communities to this day.

“Second Lady Dottie Lizer and I were neighbors to Honorable Nelson BeGaye and his family for years. He was a great loving family man who always had a wonderful vision for our Navajo people. The contributions he made over the years continue to provide many benefits for our communities. We will always cherish our memories of him and we will continue to pray for his wife, Linda, and their family,” said Vice President Lizer.

The service for the late Nelson S. BeGaye will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. (MDT) at the Lukachukai Community Cemetery in Lukachukai, Arizona. Donations for the family may be sent through the following applications:

Venmo: @KurtBegaye

Zelle: (415) 404-1718

CashApp: \$KurtBegaye

BeGaye is survived by his wife Linda, their children Reginald S. BeGaye, Kurt S. BeGaye, and Shelbi Lynn BeGaye, and four grandchildren. The proclamation calls for all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff to honor the memory and service of the late Nelson S. BeGaye on the day of his service.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
THE HONORABLE NELSON S. BEGAYE**

THE NAVAJO NATION is greatly saddened by the loss of our naat'áanii, the Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye, former Navajo Nation Council Delegate, loving husband, father, grandfather, and mentor to many; and

WHEREAS, he served the Navajo people as an elected member of the Navajo Nation Council from 2003 to 2019, representing the communities of Round Rock, Rock Point, Tsé ch'izí, Lukachukai, Tsaile/Wheatfields; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Resources and Development Committee, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and Síhasin Fund Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation honors the late Nelson S. BeGaye, for his honorable service, leadership, and compassion for the Diné People; and

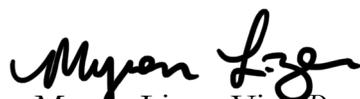
WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation recognizes his contributions and his instrumental role in many significant achievements including the San Juan River Settlement Act in 2010, and the largest single monetary settlement agreement of any American Indian tribe with the United States, which led to the establishment of the Síhasin Fund that continues to benefit many Navajo people and communities to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, 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 Nelson S. BeGaye on April 20, 2021.

PROCLAIMED THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL 2021


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION