



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2021

President Nez and Vice President Lizer offer condolences and prayers for the family of former Diné lawmaker Nelson S. BeGaye

.WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer are saddened to learn of the passing of longtime Navajo Nation Council member Nelson S. BeGaye, who passed away on Thursday morning.

“The Navajo people have lost a great leader and a very loving and caring person who devoted many years of service for our Nation. I had the honor of serving alongside Honorable BeGaye as a member of the Council and the Budget and Finance Committee. He had a great sense of humor and spoke very eloquently in our Navajo language and the English language and served his people with great honor. He had a vast knowledge of Navajo traditions, language, and our government that he shared with many. I will miss our conversations together, the humor that my brother offered, and all of the wonderful stories that he shared. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children, grandchildren, and his community,” said President Nez.



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 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 are very saddened by the loss of a great leader of our time, the Honorable Nelson BeGaye. On every occasion that I met Mr. BeGaye, he greeted me with open arms and a warm smile. He was a person of great vision for our Navajo people. We had the honor of joining two years ago in Tsaile/Wheatfields when we worked together with him to secure funding to reconstruct Navajo Route 12 in his community. That was just one initiative he took on in his lifetime. Once construction is completed, it will continue to help his people for many more years to come. Our prayers are with his family and all who had the honor of knowing him,” said Vice President Lizer.

A proclamation is forthcoming to call for flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff in honor of former Council Delegate Nelson S. BeGaye. Services will be announced at a later time.

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