



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 of late former
Navajo Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice Lorene B. Ferguson**

.WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Sunday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation ordering flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff on Monday, March 8, 2021, in honor and remembrance of retired Navajo Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice Lorene B. Ferguson, who passed away on March 1 due to complications from COVID-19.

“Justice Ferguson leaves behind a lasting legacy based on her legal and judicial career, but most importantly as a loving mother to her children, a mentor to so many of our Navajo attorneys and others, and for all of her work and contributions to the Navajo Nation for many years. We ask all of our Navajo people to join us in offering prayers for her family, colleagues, and all of those whose lives were touched by her grace and compassion over the years. There is no doubt that she helped and empowered many throughout her lifetime,” said President Nez.



Justice Ferguson was one of the first women justices to serve on the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. She served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 2001-2007 and was appointed to serve as Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 2004-2005.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of many of our Navajo people, including our great leaders. With the passing of Justice Ferguson, we pray for strength and comfort for her family, friends, and colleagues, but we must also remember that her spirit lives on and will continue to inspire many. Her accomplishments and contributions for our Navajo people will never be forgotten. We pray for her and her loved ones as she is now with our Creator,” Vice President Lizer stated.

Prior to her appointment as Supreme Court Justice, she served as the Navajo Nation Circuit Court Judge starting in 2000, working out of the Kayenta District Court, and as a Navajo Tribal Court Judge, from 1992 to 2000, assigned at different times to the Shiprock, Tohajiilee, Ramah and Alamo Courts. She came to the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch after having served as a Staff Attorney at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice for eight years. While at the Department of Justice, she drafted the first Navajo Election Code and Navajo scholarship policy for the Department of Education, according to a statement by her family.

Justice Ferguson graduated from Fort Lewis College in 1965, majoring in English Literature with a minor in Psychology. She worked in the areas of community development, welfare rights and as a Head Start teacher and Indian Education training technician, before attending the University of New Mexico School of Law, where she graduated in 1983.

Justice Ferguson served as a mentor to countless law clerks and Navajo attorneys throughout her career. She was a strong advocate for education and traditional law. To her family, her most important and meaningful accomplishments were as wife, mother, grandmother, and matriarch for her family. Her family said that Justice Ferguson would want to encourage every Navajo citizen to stay safe and get vaccinated. A private family service will be held on Monday, March 8, 2021 in honor of Justice Ferguson.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF NAVAJO NATION
SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE LORENE B. FERGUSON**

THE NAVAJO NATION is greatly saddened by the loss of our naat'áanii Lorene B. Ferguson, retired Navajo Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice, former Acting Chief Justice, loving mother, and mentor to many; and

WHEREAS, Justice Ferguson served the Navajo people as Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court from 2001 to 2007 and as Acting Chief Justice from 2004 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, she also served as the Navajo Nation Circuit Court Judge, Navajo Tribal Court Judge from 1992 to 2000, and as a Staff Attorney for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice helping to develop the Nation's first Election Code and scholarship policy; and

WHEREAS, as we recognize National Women's History Month, we honor Justice Ferguson's distinguished service for the Diné People, unwavering support for the rule of law and justice, and mentorship of many throughout her lifetime; and

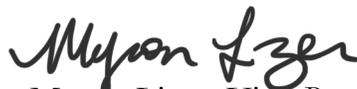
WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to her family, friends, and community.

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 Lorene B. Ferguson on March 8, 2021.

PROCLAIMED THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH 2021



Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION



Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION