



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 to honor the life of late Navajo leader Samuel Yazzie

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation on Wednesday, in honor of former Navajo Nation lawmaker, Chapter Official, and School Board Official Samuel Yazzie, who passed away at the age of 75. He was born in Keams Canyon, Ariz., and resided with his family in Lukachukai, Ariz., all his life.

"We offer our thoughts and prayers for his wife, Jean, and the family of the late Honorable Samuel Yazzie, who served our Nation with great honor and dignity for many years in many leadership roles. To his family, we pray that you find comfort that your loved one is with the Creator now. His teachings and contributions to the Navajo Nation will forever be remembered and cherished," said President Nez.

Yazzie was Tó'aheedlínii (Water Flows Together) and born for Ta'neeszahnii (Tangle Clan). He served four terms as a Council Delegate with the 16th Navajo Nation Council from 1987 – 1991, the 17th Navajo Nation Council 1992 – 1995, 18th Navajo Nation Council from 1996 – 1999, and the 19th Navajo Nation Council from 2000 – 2003. He also served as Lukachukai Chapter President for 10 years, a peacemaker for Chinle Judicial Court, and a School Board President for Lukachukai Community School.



PHOTO: Honorable Samuel Yazzie.

"Honorable Samuel Yazzie leaves behind a lasting legacy for his family, the Navajo people, and the communities he represented and served for many years. We owe a debt of gratitude to him and his loved ones for his years of service, dedication, and compassion. We pray for him and his family at this time," Vice President Lizer stated.

Council Delegate Carl Slater, who represents the Lukachukai community as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, recalled Honorable Samuel Yazzie as a loving and inspirational leader who devoted his life to public service. He added that Yazzie played an instrumental role in the development of the new Lukachukai Community School that is currently being constructed.

"Mr. Yazzie exemplified the highest model of selfless leadership. He was a traditional man who lived his values. May his humble leadership be an inspiration to us all," said Delegate Slater.

Yazzie is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jean Chee Yazzie, his five children, Delbert, Stanley, Manuel, Iris, and Heather Yazzie, and his 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The proclamation orders all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory of Samuel Yazzie on Oct. 21, 2021. His funeral service is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF NAVAJO LEADER SAMUEL YAZZIE

THE NAVAJO NATION honors Samuel Yazzie of Lukachukai, Arizona, for his leadership and dedication to the Navajo Nation.

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the Honorable Samuel Yazzie, a former Council Delegate, former Chapter Official and a School Board Official; and

WHEREAS, Hon. Samuel Yazzie served four terms as a Council Delegate with the 16th Navajo Nation Council from 1987 – 1991, the 17th Navajo Nation Council 1992 – 1995, 18th Navajo Nation Council from 1996 – 1999, and the 19th Navajo Nation Council from 2000 – 2003; and

WHEREAS, as a Navajo Nation Council Delegate Hon. Samuel Yazzie served the Navajo Nation Chapters of Tsaille/Wheatfields, Black Rock, Lukachukai, and Round Rock, and contributed to road improvements, construction of new senior centers, and Head Start centers within District 11; and

WHEREAS, Hon. Samuel Yazzie also served his communities as Lukachukai Chapter President for 10 years, and a Peace Maker for Chinle Judicial Court for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Hon. Samuel Yazzie also served as a School Board President for Lukachukai Community School, and contributed to the construction of a new school facility and advocated for curriculum focused on the history and culture of the Diné people; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his wife of 54 years, Jean Chee Yazzie, his five children, Delbert, Stanley, Manuel, Iris, and Heather Yazzie, his 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, his 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 proclaim that all flags on the Navajo Nation shall be flown at half-staff on October 21, 2021, to honor the memory and service of the late Honorable Samuel Yazzie.

PROCLAIMED THIS 20th DAY OF OCTOBER 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION