



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2022

Navajo Nation pays tribute to the life and service of former Arizona State Representative Sylvia Laughter

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation on Thursday, in honor and remembrance of Sylvia Laughter, a member of the Navajo Nation, who served as an elected member of the Arizona House of Representatives from 1999 to 2005 representing part of the Navajo Nation. Laughter passed away peacefully with family at her side on Oct. 15, 2022.

Laughter was originally from Baby Rocks, Ariz. on the Navajo Nation. She is Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House Clan) and born for Táchii'nii (Red Running into the Water Clan). Her maternal grandfather is Tábaqáhá (Water's Edge Clan) and her paternal grandfather is Tł'ízí lání (Manygoats Clan).

"Honorable Sylvia Laughter dedicated her life to public service for the Navajo people and the citizens of Arizona. She comes from a family of strong and influential leaders who committed their lives to helping others. Her work as a state legislator impacted the lives of our elders, youth, veterans, families, and many others in our communities and beyond. She built a lasting legacy that we hold close to our hearts. We offer our thoughts and prayers to her family, friends, colleagues, and everyone whose lives were touched by our leader," said President Nez.

As a State Representative, Laughter advocated and secured key funding that benefited many elders, veterans, and families residing on the Navajo Nation. She also sponsored legislation that led to the creation of the Navajo Nation license plate that continues to provide revenue for



transportation priorities. She also led the effort to recognize the Navajo Code Talkers with the development of honorary memorials in the capital of the Navajo Nation and in the city of Phoenix.

“Our veterans, elders, and youth held a special place in the heart of our leader, the Honorable Sylvia Laughter. As her family, friends, and colleagues grieve for the loss of a great leader, we offer our heartfelt condolences and prayers for strength and comfort. She led a life of service and commitment for our people. May her service and contributions to our communities live on in the hearts and minds of all of our Diné people,” stated Vice President Lizer.

The funeral service for Sylvia Laughter is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Bunker Family Funeral Home, 3529 E. University Dr., Mesa Ariz. A viewing will be held prior to the funeral service beginning at 10:00 a.m. The family is also accepting donations through their GoFundMe page <https://gofundme.com/sylvia-laughter> or via Zelle at nakitanez@gmail.com.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF FORMER ARIZONA STATE REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LAUGHTER

THE NAVAJO NATION honors the life of Diné Leader, Sylvia Laughter. We are very grateful for her service and contributions to the State of Arizona and the Navajo Nation and offer this special recognition:

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of former Arizona State Representative Sylvia Laughter, originally from Baby Rocks, Arizona. She is Kinyaa'aanii (Towering House Clan) and born for Táchi'i'nii (Red Running into the Water Clan). Her maternal grandfather is Tábaqhá (Water's Edge Clan) and her paternal grandfather is Tl'ízi lání (Manygoats Clan); and


WHEREAS, Laughter served as an elected member of the Arizona State Legislature from 1999 to 2005 and played an instrumental role in advocating for the Navajo People and honoring our elders, youth, veterans, and Navajo Code Talkers; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation honors the late Sylvia Laughter for her honorable service and commitment to the citizens of the State of Arizona the Navajo People; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to her 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 issue this proclamation in honor and memory of our Diné leader Sylvia Laughter.

PROCLAIMED THIS 20th DAY OF OCTOBER 2022


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION