



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council honors the life of late Navajo leader Sampson Begay

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley and members of the Council recognized and honored the life of former Council Delegate Sampson Begay, who passed away on May 5 at the age of 76. He was Bjjh bitoodnii (Deer Spring Clan) and born for Ta'neeszahnii (Tangle Clan), and resided in Low Mountain, Ariz., at the time of his passing.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Begay's loved ones and his community during this difficult time. Together, we honor and remember all his great sacrifices for our people and our Nation as a U.S. Army veteran, a former Council Delegate, and a community leader. He was a loving and caring husband, father, and grandfather who devoted his life to the Navajo Nation and his family. Words are not enough to thank him and his family for their sacrifices. We ask all of our Navajo people to keep his spirit and his family in your prayers," said Speaker Curley.



Begay served on the Navajo Nation Council from 1987 – 2011, representing the communities of Low Mountain, Steamboat, and Jeddito, Ariz. He also served as Low Mountain Chapter President and Vice President for many years. Former Speaker Johnny Nazie, who worked closely with Begay, also paid tribute and offered his condolences to the family.

"Delegate Begay was a community figure and represented his community for over 20 years as a Council Delegate. He was the chair of the Transportation and Community Development Committee and led the

charge for roads, bridges, and heavy equipment, which the Navajo Division of Transportation uses today. We are thankful for his accomplishments, and we will truly miss our great leader," said Naize.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Begay, his children, Leah Tso, Michelle Deschner, Josephine Chee, John E. Chee Jr., Bradley Chee, and his grandchildren, Myles Tso, Christian Tso, Samson Tso, Isaiah Deschner, and Sophia Deschner.

Sampson Begay will be laid to rest on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at the Smoke Signal Nazarene Church at 10:00 a.m. MDT in Low Mountain, Ariz. The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to offer its support to the family and community.

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