



24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Council Mourns Passing of Former Delegate Emmett Bia, Sr.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation Council mourns the loss of former delegate Emmett Bia, Sr. from Many Farms, AZ. Mr. Bia was a six-term delegate and community leader who had a profound impact on the Council and Nation during his time in office and thereafter.

"We will always remember and appreciate the tireless advocacy Delegate Bia rendered for the community of Many Farms and the Navajo Nation," stated Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Blue Gap/Tachee, Tselani/Cottonwood). "In my capacity as a delegate, Mr. Bia provided guidance to me. I send my sincere condolences to his wife, children, and family. Many Farms and the surrounding communities are stronger due to his leadership."

Mr. Bia served in the U.S. Navy for four years starting at age 18. Prior to his election to the Council, Mr. Bia worked as a surveyor for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and performed well maintenance for Shell Oil on the reservation.

During his time on the Council, Mr. Bia served on a wide range of committees, impacting innumerable matters considered by the Council during his twenty-four-years of service.

"Delegate Bia's record of service and many contributions to the Nation are representative of the commitment he felt for his people. Road improvements to N59, N7, and N64; countless powerline and waterline extensions, in addition to house wiring projects; and several chapter house and senior center construction projects are due to his tireless advocacy," stated Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhááí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh).

Mr. Bia sought to enjoy farming and ranching life after his retirement from Council, though his community called on him yet again to serve. For sixteen years, Mr. Bia served on the school board for the Bureau of Indian Education-operated Many Farms High School, including serving as board president.

In 2017, the Navajo Nation Women's Commission inducted Mr. Bia into the inaugural class of the Navajo Nation Youth and Elder Hall of Fame.

Mr. Bia is survived by wife, four children, 16 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one child. In his later years, Mr. Bia was the primary care provider for two of his grandchildren.

His funeral service will be held 10:00 am Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Chinle, AZ.

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