



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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THE 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFERS PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY OF FORMER NAVAJO NATION LEADER KELSEY BEGAYE

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 24th Navajo Nation Council offers their condolences to the family and friends of former Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and Navajo Nation President, Honorable Kelsey Begaye. Begaye was of the Ashiihi (Salt people) clan and born for the Todich'iinii (Bitter water) clan. His maternal grandparents are the Honaghaahnii (One-walks-around) clan and his paternal grandparents are the Kinyaa'aanii (Towering House) clan. In 1991, Begaye began his political career as a council delegate for his respective community of Kaibeto, Az. He later went on to hold the position of Speaker of the Council before becoming the fifth Navajo Nation President in 1999.

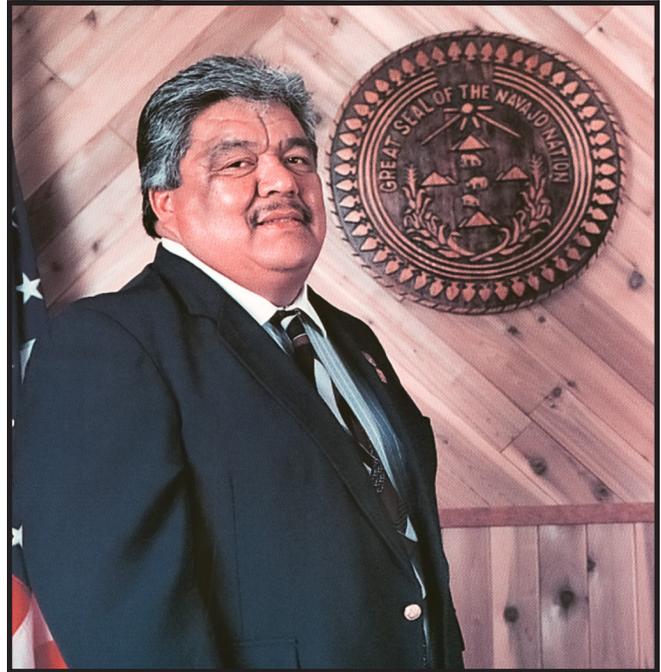


PHOTO: Kelsey Begaye, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council from 1995-1999.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation Council, we send our deepest condolences to Kelsey Begaye’s family at this difficult time. The Nation has lost a great friend, mentor, and colleague who showed the skills of leadership and great determination. He worked tirelessly as Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and President of the Navajo Nation. The Council mourns with you and celebrates the extraordinary life of this remarkable man, who devoted his life to his family and the people of the Navajo Nation,” expressed Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

In addition to his dedicated leadership, Mr. Begaye is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the United States Army. After serving, he later became a community Abuse Counselor, a pastor, a Navajo Nation Program Manager, a Navajo Nation Legislator and Navajo Nation President. Reflecting on his extensive work ethic, Begaye demonstrated a tremendous level of leadership through his selflessness for his community, the Navajo Nation, and the Navajo people. The Nation appreciates the persistence and determination in everything Mr. Begaye had done.

Speaker Damon ordered the flags in front of the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock be raised at half-staff during this period.

The Office of the Speaker and the Navajo Nation Council is working with the family of Honorable Begaye and further statements will be forthcoming.

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