



Navajo Nation honors the life of former Council Delegate Willie Begay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 24, 2021

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council offer their condolences to the family of former Council Delegate William “Willie” Begay, who passed away today at the age of 68.

Originally from Kayenta, AZ, he was born in August 1953, near Monument Valley, Utah. Begay is Kinyaa’anii (Towering House Clan) and born for Tl’izi Lani (Many Goats Clan).

He previously served on the Navajo Nation Council representing the communities of Kayenta and Chííłchinbii’tó.

“Honorable Begay is a loving father and husband who served the Navajo people with great distinction for over 10 years on the Navajo Nation Council,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). “A beloved Kayenta Community School board member, Honorable Begay is remembered as a humble, caring man who deeply loved his family. The Navajo people send prayers to give strength to his family during this time.”

A 1972 graduate from Monument Valley High School, Begay attended Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

“We had the honor of working with Delegate Willie Begay on many projects that impacted the lives of families in the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. He was a major advocate for our students and teachers by getting funding for the Kayenta Community School he represented. May his family and those he loved find comfort in the prayers we send to them today,” added former Speaker Lorenzo Bates.

Begay is survived by his wife and four children. His mother was Marion Yazzie Begay and father was Walter Begay Sr., former Kayenta Chapter President.

“It is through his hard work and advocacy that the Kayenta Health Center was funded,” said Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Dennehotso, Kayenta, Chííłchinbii’tó). “Delegate Begay was

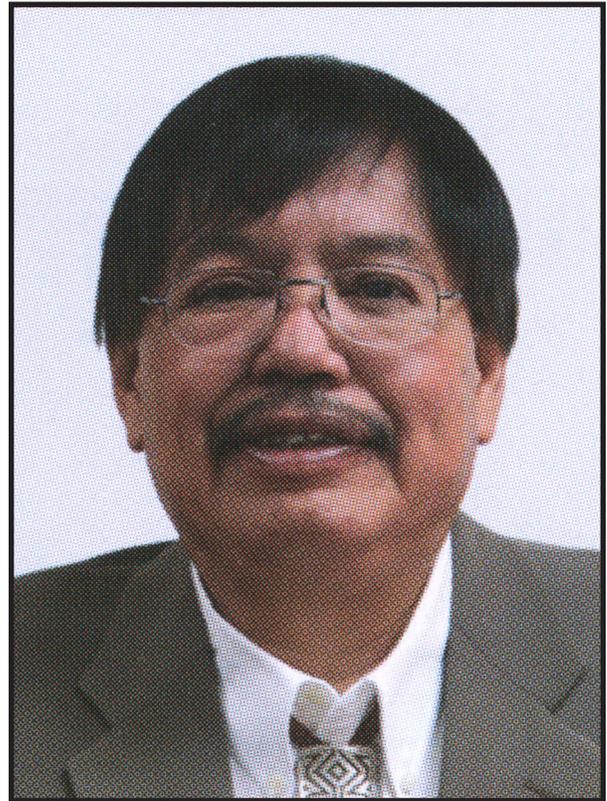


PHOTO: Willie Begay as 21st Navajo Nation Council Delegate from years 2007-2011.

able to get the street lighting on Highway 163 constructed, the Laguna Creek bridge built, and pedestrian walkways funded. He was a hardworking and respected community leader who will be missed dearly.”

Honorable Willie Begay will be laid to rest as family members finalize memorial service plans this week - to be announced through social media platforms.

Delegate Nathaniel Brown will officially present a Navajo Nation Flag to the family to honor his decades-long public service to the Navajo people.

###