



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Council joins Swearing-In Ceremony for Arizona State Senator Theresa Hatathlie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2022



PHOTO: Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, Representative Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, newly appointed Senator Teresa Hatathlie and her brother Freddie Hatathlie pose for a photo after the swearing-in ceremony at the Arizona State Capitol.

PHOENIX, Ariz. — On Monday, members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council joined Ms. Theresa Hatathlie for her swearing-in ceremony as the newest member of the Arizona State Senate for Legislative District 7 (LD7). The Coconino County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve the appointment last week during a special meeting in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel provided the oath of office to Senator Theresa Hatathlie, who was joined by her oldest brother Freddie Hatathlie, a retired Master Sergeant in the United States Army.

“Senator Theresa Hatathlie is a respected public figure who advocates for our elders, young people, and the prevention of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation. She serves as the Vice President of the Diné College Board of Regents the last nine years and understands the importance of preserving the Navajo language and our traditional way of life. The Navajo Nation appreciates the leadership of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors for making sure a Diné leader was appointed to this respected position. State Senator Hatathlie has a proven record of standing behind our women, the LGBTQ+ community, and she will be our champion in the Arizona State Legislature,” said Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Dennehotso, Kayenta, Chííłchinbii’tó).

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Originally from Coalmine Mesa Chapter, she serves as the Logistics Coordinator for the Navajo and Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund. The non-profit organization has raised \$10 million over two years for Indigenous families across the four corners area.

Former Senator Jamescita Peshlakai resigned from her public position in late December to take a position with the United States Bureau of Reclamation in Washington, D.C. Three candidates were recommended by Coconino County that included Navajo Nation Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, community leader Theresa Hatathlie, chapter leader Gwen Ward.

“Arizona’s tribes need leaders who will advocate and fight for them in the legislature. We believe State Senator Theresa Hatathlie will be a champion for our Tribal Nations as we move forward together into 2022. Our priorities for broadband, infrastructure, technological, and economic development need to be a top priority. Working with our Arizona state leaders, we need to invest into our Navajo communities to uplift small businesses, responsibly allocate capital outlay funds, and begin infrastructure projects during this pandemic,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

The Navajo Nation commends the leadership of the late State Senator Albert Hale, former Senator Jack Jackson Sr., Senator Jamescita Peshlakai, former Representative Jack Jackson, Jr., and Representative Arlando Teller for being a powerful voice in the Arizona Legislature.

Senator Theresa Hatathlie will publicly serve until next January 2023. Arizona Senate District 7 spans across Apache, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Mohave, Navajo, and Pinal Counties. The Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache, San Carlos Apache, Hualapai, Havasupai, Kaibab Paiute, San Juan Southern Paiute, Zuni Pueblo, and Hopi Tribe are within the legislative district boundaries.

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