



Navajo Nation honors the life of Vietnam Veteran and Community Leader Wesley Simpson Sr.

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KAYENTA, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council offer their condolences to the family of Navy veteran and community leader Wesley Simpson Sr., who passed away at the age of 75.

Wesley Simpson Sr. is Tl'izi Lani (Many Goats Clan) and born for Táchii'nii (Red Running Into the Water People House Clan). Originally from Narrow Canyon, NM, he was born on July 3, 1946.

“Mr. Simpson was like an uncle to me and to other students in our community. I remember the many conversations we had together because he encouraged us to be better and shared the importance of family. He told us to value our elders, who are usually home alone, and gain as much Navajo teachings from them because it would help us in the future. Navajo traditional lessons are important to our livelihood and are precious knowledge to help future generations thrive. Mr. Simpson was a beloved patriarch who shared his happiness with others and was always optimistic. His life is remembered and honored because he made a difference in all our lives,” said Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Dennehotso, Kayenta, Chííłchinbii'tó).

From 1966 to 1972, Wesley Simpson Sr. served two tours during the Vietnam War, enlisted with the United States Navy and returned home to work as a school liaison for the Kayenta Unified School District for over 38 years.

He received the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Vietnam Service Medal, First National Defense Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal.

“Mr. Simpson was a loving father and beloved husband who was revered in his community for his leadership and kind spirit. As the Oljato Veterans Organization Commander, he was a gourd dancer who always advocated for our military spouses and their families. He is remembered as a humble, caring man who deeply loved his family and the communities he served. The Navajo people send prayers of protection to give strength to his family during this time,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).



Wesley Simpson, Sr.

Photo Courtesy of the Simpson Family.

Vietnam veteran Wesley Simpson Sr. is survived by his wife Elsie Simpson of 40 years, five children, and 12 grandchildren. He will be laid to rest this Sunday, February 20, 2022, at the family plot in Narrow Canyon, NM.

The Navajo Hopi Honor Riders will be on standby at 9 a.m by the Church Rock Junction on Route 59 and HWY 163 to provide an escort for the family. The Oljato Veterans Organization will provide a 21-gun salute for the late commander.

Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown will officially present a Navajo Nation Flag to the family to honor his years of service to the Navajo people and the United States of America.

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