



Navajo Nation honors the life of community leader Ms. Marlene Burbank

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 12, 2022

COTTONWOOD, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr. of the 24th Navajo Nation Council offer their condolences to the family of respected Tselani-Cottonwood community leader Ms. Marlene Burbank.

Burbank was born on January 11, 1959, and served over 14 years as the Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter secretary and treasurer. She is Tsénjikini (Cliff Dwellers Clan), born for To’aheadliini (Water Flows Together Clan), her maternal grandfather is Táchii’nii (Red Running Into the Water People Clan) and her paternal grandfather is Honágháahnii (One Walks Around Clan).

“Ms. Marlene Burbank loved her job as a computer teacher that lasted over 20 years serving students across the Navajo Nation. A beloved sister and aunty, she was revered in her community for her kindness and smile. She proudly served on the Navajo



PHOTO: Ms. Marlene Burbank

Nation Board of Education for over seven years as the Traditional Navajo Culture Representative. The Navajo people send prayers of protection to give strength to her family during this time,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

Burbank is remembered by those who worked with her as loyal, hardworking, and caring. Her family shared that she enjoyed Navajo weaving and caring for her sheep, horses, and chickens.

“The Navajo people lost a dear leader this weekend who served over a decade as a chapter official serving the communities she loved. Ms. Marlene Burbank was dedicated to her work and spent most of her life advocating for Diné educational values and for our young people in the classroom. It was an honor to vote for her appointment to the Navajo Nation Board of Education and to work alongside her at the Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter. We express our deepest condolences to the Burbank family, and may our prayers keep them strong,” said Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr. (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain).

Funeral services for Ms. Burbank will begin on Friday, May 13, 2022, around 1 p.m. at the family plot, eight miles west of Pinon Junction at the Four Corners/Fish Point and Black Mountain area. Donations can be sent to Ms. Sonia Starks through Zelle via Wells Fargo Bank under the phone

number 602-460-8568 or delivered to the residence of Ms. Elene Burbank.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr. will officially present a Navajo Nation Flag to the family to honor her decades of service to the Navajo people and the citizens of Arizona.

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