



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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25th Navajo Nation Council Mourns the Passing of Former Delegate Joe M. Lee



Photo provided by the family of Joe M. Lee.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation Council has announced with profound sadness the passing of Honorable Joe M. Lee, former Council Delegate and current Vice President of the Chichiltah Chapter. Mr. Lee passed away on April 30, 2024, at the age of 84, leaving behind a legacy of dedicated public service and community leadership.

Born on January 5, 1940, in Chichiltah, Joe M. Lee was a lifelong servant to his community and the Navajo Nation. He represented the Chichiltah Chapter on the Navajo Nation Council from 2000 to 2008 and was serving as the Chapter Vice President at the time of his passing.

“Mr. Lee was a great person for our communities and loving family man. It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of his life, but he will continue to live on in our memories and all that he accomplished for us. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and community,” said Council Delegate Lester C. Yazzie, who represents the community of Chichiltah as a member of the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

Mr. Lee's commitment to public service began in 1975 when he served as the Vice President of the Chichiltah Chapter. His dedication extended beyond his political roles, evident in his spiritual leadership as the pastor of Pine Mission Church for over 40 years.

Judy James, niece of the late Joe M. Lee, reflected: "Joe always started with prayer and wanted to help the community in the best way possible. He carried humility and grace with him in everything he did. We are thankful for the overwhelming support from everyone who knew him."

The Navajo Nation recognizes Lee's contributions not only within the Eastern Agency but across the wider community. His absence is deeply felt, and his tireless efforts to improve the lives of those around him will be remembered by many.

Mr. Lee is survived by his son Leslie Lee, daughter Laurel Lee, brother Frank Lee, and one grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife Jane Lee, sister Mary Alice Lucas, and his parents Mary Skeet and John Lee.

A service to honor the life and contributions of Joe M. Lee will be held at 10:00a.m. on Tuesday, May 07, 2024, at the Pine Tree Mission Church in Vanderwagon, N.M.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends its deepest condolences to the Lee family during this time of mourning. Lee's legacy of leadership, faith, and community service will continue to inspire future generations.

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