



Navajo Nation Council mourns former Navajo Nation President Thomas Atcitty

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Former Navajo Nation President and Vice President Thomas Atcitty passed away from natural causes on Sunday, Oct. 11, at the age of 86. He served seven terms as a New Mexico State Representative in addition to serving as the president and vice president of Navajo Community College (Diné College). From 1995-1999, Atcitty served as the Vice President of the Navajo Nation, which included serving as the third President from February 1998 until June 1998.



PHOTO: Former Navajo Nation President & Vice President Thomas Atcitty (Courtesy, Navajo Election Administration).

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation Council, I offer my most sincere condolences to the family and relatives of Honorable Thomas Atcitty. When a great Navajo leader journeys on, we recognize their efforts and contributions to the development of the Great Navajo Nation. Thomas Atcitty served honorably and continues to serve as a figure of great compassion and duty to the Navajo People. We follow in his footsteps to build a stronger and more secure Navajo Nation so that our future generations can be confident in their pursuit of the betterment of all Navajo people. His dedication is remembered and honored by many people, and we recognize him today as Navajo leaders,” said Speaker Seth Damon.

Members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council also announced the news of Atcitty’s passing before the Health, Education, & Human Services Committee and Resources & Development Committee regular meetings on Wednesday.

Council Delegate Daniel E. Tso remembered Atcitty for his involvement in executing the purchase of the now-Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, New Mexico. Atcitty also served as the headmaster of the former Navajo Academy and continued to be involved in Navajo education throughout his life.

A viewing has been planned for Wednesday followed by burial services at which thirteen family members are permitted. Atcitty is survived by his wife, Vicky, three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The flags in front of the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Arizona will be raised at half-staff for the next four days. The Council respectfully asks government buildings across the Navajo Nation similarly observe the passing of Atcitty.

Atcitty resided in Shiprock, New Mexico and was also a member of the United States Marine Corps.

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