



Terry Rambler
Chairman

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE

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Tao Etpison
Vice-Chairman

August 4, 2020

Via E-Mail & U.S. Postal Services

Norma, Andera & Joshua Cruz, John Lopez, Marisa Lopez, Luke Byrd, Jesse Byrd,
& The Family, Friends and Colleagues of Roy Chavez
3994 E. Copper Road
San Tan Valley, Arizona 85143
acruz@gregranlawoffice.com

Dear Ms. Chavez and the Family, Friends and Colleagues of Roy Chavez:

On behalf of the over 17,000 members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe (the "Tribe") and the San Carlos Council, the Tribe's governing body, I extend our belated, heartfelt condolences to you, the family, friends and colleagues of Roy Chavez and his sister, Kimberly. At the same time, even though this is a time of shock, devastation and grief, I provide our deepest gratitude for his public service as Mayor of Superior, and his advocacy as a member of the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition against the Resolution Copper Mine project. Roy's was a life to celebrate.

In the Apache way we usually do not name those who leave us. Roy stands as an exception. He touched the lives of so many in countless ways that his name and life will echo throughout time.

We say Ahi'yi'é (thank you) Roy for your many years of public service. As Mayor, you represented all your constituents, treating each equally with respect and dignity, including members of our Tribe. Ahi'yi'é for your leadership of the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition. Ahi'yi'é for your advocacy for miners and mining reform. Ahi'yi'é for your contribution to the fight against the Resolution Copper Mine. Ahi'yi'é for your service of teaching.

The Chavez Family

Re: Roy

August 4, 2020

Page 2 of 3

Over the years that I worked with Roy and admired his zealous advocacy for miners, jobs, economic development, education, the environment, social justice, and equal protection under the law. He was a champion of the underserved and the disadvantaged. He stood against oppression, discrimination and racism. When we testified together before Congress, I noted and deeply appreciated his calm, articulate, passionate, thorough grasp of the problems created by the Resolution Copper Mine.

Roy stood for what's right. For that, rest assured that his efforts bore the fruit of change and hope. By standing tall against the powers that represent self-interest and greed, Roy's legacy will always be that he was a man of and for the people.

Roy was a true friend of the Apache people. He was a substitute teacher for the San Carlos Unified School District No. 20. Superintendent Dr. Deborah Dennison described the death of Mr. Chavez as a "huge loss" for the school district. The cause of Roy's and, his sister, Kimberly's death "sends the message loud and clear that we are not safe" from the virus. Dr. Dennison pointed out that Mr. Chavez could have easily taught in other school districts closer to his home in Superior, Arizona. Instead, he repeatedly chose the Apache children. In fact, as you may know, Mr. Chavez was planning on returning to the San Carlos School District in the upcoming school year, and we were looking forward to his return.

In this time of sorrow, we often become overwhelmed by the loss itself. We forget how much our loved ones gave us every day throughout their life. Take comfort as Roy bestowed the blessings of his work ethic, public service, kindness and humanity, and for that he shall remain forever in the hearts, minds and soul of those he touched.

Please accept this Apache blessing for both Roy and his sister, Kimberly, with hope that it may help ease your burden in this sorrowful time.

May the sun bring him new energy every day, bringing light into the darkness of his soul.

May the moon softly restore him by night, bathing him in the glow of restful sleep and peaceful dreams.

May the rain wash away his worries and cleanse the hurt that sat in his heart.

May the breeze blow new strength into his being, and may he believe in the courage of himself.

May he walk gently through the world, keeping his loved ones with him always, knowing that he has never parted and that the beat of his drum and song remain among us.

The Chavez Family

Re: Roy

August 4, 2020

Page 3 of 3

May our ancestors dance and laugh with him among the stars.

May Roy smile down upon us and remain within all of us.

Roy was a friend and ally of our Tribe. We will miss him, and so will those he taught. But, know this, Roy will not be forgotten.

May our Creator God bless and embrace Roy his sister, Kimberly, you, his family, his colleagues, and all his relations.

Ahi'yi'é for the blessings bestowed upon us by the life and public service of Roy Chavez.

Sincerely,

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE



Terry Rambler
Chairman

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San Carlos Apache Tribe
Tao Etpison, Vice Chairman
Members of the Council
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