



President Delbert W. Ray Sr.

Biography

Delbert W. Ray Sr. is the 24th President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. He is the son of the late Jonah Ray Sr. and Mary Senich Ray. President Ray was elected on September 2, 2014 and sworn in to office on December 20, 2014. When he was elected, he was serving his first term as a member of the Council, representing District A. President Ray is a champion of inclusiveness and invokes the O’odham phrase, “ththvem aboju” which means “we will do this together.”

President Ray attended Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California and received his degree from Haskell University in Lawrence, Kansas. He is a retired United State Marine Corps Veteran, and proudly served in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged from the military in 1972.

As a Councilmember, Delbert Ray served on the Forfeiture and Permanency Committees for SRPMIC. He also brings extensive judicial experience to the office of President, having served as a Chief Judge for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. He also served as a judge for many other tribes including the Hualapai Tribe, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Fort Mohave Tribe, and Tonto Apache Tribe. Currently President Ray sits on the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Indian Affairs which is chaired by Senator Carlyle Begay from the Navajo Nation.

President Ray and his wife June, have been married for more than forty years. They have three children: Selina Ray-Salcido, Delbert W. Ray, Jr. and Meredith Ray-Duwyenie and nine grandchildren.