



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Navajo Nation Council offers condolences for the Navajo Nation's first woman District Court Judge Marie Neswood**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) offers condolences to the family of former Council Delegate and Navajo District Court Judge Marie Roanhorse Neswood, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 85. She was originally from the community of Crystal, N.M.

"Honorable Marie Neswood represented her community and the entire Navajo Nation with great dignity and pride throughout her lifetime," said Speaker Bates. "Her honorable service will always be remembered and cherished. To her family, we offer our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

Honorable Neswood served with the Judicial Branch from 1976 to 1989. According to the Judicial Branch, she became the Navajo Nation's first district court judge and also served as acting Chief Justice for a period of time. She worked for the Office of the Chief Prosecutor and the Navajo Nation Police Department prior to being elected as a member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council from 1991–1995, representing the community of St. Michaels.

Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels), who currently represents the community of St. Michaels, described her as a dedicated public servant who worked hard to better the lives of her neighbors and communities.

"We will forever be grateful for Honorable Neswood's service to our Nation and our communities," said Delegate Hale. "As the first Navajo woman to serve as a district judge, she was a great role model for our Navajo youth and all of our people."



**PHOTO: Marie Roanhorse Neswood, former Council Delegate and former Navajo District Court Judge.**

Neswood married Nelson Neswood from Lower Greasewood and together they had eight children and resided in St. Michaels.

A planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Michaels Chapter house. A rosary will be held on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017 at St. Michael Catholic Church at 7:00 p.m. and a funeral mass will take place on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Michael Indian School Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

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