Navajo Nation expresses condolences on passing of Chichiltah Chapter President and McKinley County Commissioner Tommy Nelson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 5, 2020

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council Seth Damon shared his condolences with the family of Chichiltah Chapter President Tommy Nelson, whose passing was shared with the Council on Nov. 5.

“We are saddened to hear of the loss of a great elder and leader, Mr. Tommy Nelson of Chichiltah,” said Speaker Damon. “On behalf of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, I share my deepest condolences with the family, relatives and community that Mr. Nelson represented. We know his dedication to public service and to being a leader will not be forgotten, and we will forever be appreciative of his many contributions to the betterment of our people.”


Nelson was also an elected member of the McKinley County Board of Commissioners representing District II. He was raised in Chichiltah, New Mexico, since birth in 1950. He served in the United States Marine Corps before returning from service and engaging with Navajo governance.

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Nelson was father to four children with wife, Grace Nelson. He is remembered by his family as a man of great faith in God who maintained a lifelong dedication to the Navajo People in and out of the Navajo Nation.

“We are very proud of our dad, and we send out our thankfulness. He loved his family and grandchildren and had a great devotion to his people,” shared Tammy Williams, Nelson’s daughter.

Funeral services and burial arrangements for Nelson will be planned by family and are currently under development.

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