



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
Office of the Speaker

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## Navajo Nation honors the life of Billy Nez, Community Leader and All Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association Gold Card Member

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**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council offer their condolences to the family of community leader and All Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association (AIRCA) Gold Card Member, Billy Nez, from Tselani Springs, Ariz.

Nez is Tséńjíkiní (Honey Combed Rock People Clan) and born for Tábaqhá (Water Edge Clan). He served four years as the Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter President and was a grazing official for over 25 years.

“Mr. Nez is a loving husband, father, and grandfather who served the Navajo people with great distinction as a Cottonwood Day School board member and a representative to the Diné Hataaʼí Association,” said Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain). “A beloved chapter leader, Mr. Nez is remembered as a humble man who deeply loved his family and community. Aside from over 37 years of public service, he leaves behind traditional teachings as a respected Native American Church practitioner. May his songs and prayers give strength to his family during this time.”

Serving 10 years at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads Management Division, Mr. Nez worked seven years for the Santa Fe Railroad and eight years with the Navajo Peacemaking Program.

“Through the many years as a chapter official, Mr. Nez found time to raise his seven sons and two daughters alongside his loving wife Jean,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh) “Our rodeo families recognize his accomplishment as a Gold Card Member for the All Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association. Mr. Nez was a hard worker who was deeply invested in serving the communities he loved. The Navajo Nation honors his life and offers our prayers to bring comfort to his family.”

Mr. Billy Nez has nine children, 13 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Mrs. Jean Lee Nez.



PHOTO: Tselani community leader Billy Nez.

He will be laid to rest at the Black Mountain Mission Cemetery in Tselani/Cottonwood, Ariz., on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at 10 a.m. A reception will follow the services at the residence of Ms. Lucy Ben. Delegate Begay will officially present a Navajo Nation Flag to the family to honor his 37 years of public service to the Navajo People.

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