



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **25th Navajo Nation Council mourns the passing of Eastern Land Board member Emery Chee**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The 25th Navajo Nation Council is deeply saddened by the passing of Eastern Land Board member Emery Chee, who passed away today at the age of 80, according to his family.

Chee, a lifelong rancher, served for approximately 12 years on the Eastern Navajo Agency Land Board. He was from Bááháálí Chapter and was of the Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House) clan, born for Tó'dik'ozh (Salt Water). He is survived by his three children.

Council Delegate Steven Arviso expressed that Chee was an invaluable resource for the Eastern Land Board due to his extensive knowledge of local history.



**Photo of Emery Chee provided by the Chee family.**

“He was incredibly knowledgeable about land and grazing issues, as well as the regulations pertaining to those areas,” Steven Arviso said. “He was a vocal advocate for direct services to the Navajo people.”

During his time with the Eastern Agency Land Board, he represented the grazing communities of Church Rock, Red Rock, and Bááháálí. Throughout his tenure, Chee served as an officer and as the vice chair.

Chee also worked for 30 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Natural Resources in both the Eastern and Chinle Agencies.

In addition to his work on the Land Board, Chee was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a proud member of the Bááháálí Veterans Group.

“We celebrate our elders, who have guided us with their wisdom and knowledge. Their deep love for the land shapes their vision for future land issues,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. “We are grateful for the knowledge Emery Chee brought to the Eastern Land Board and honor his service as a veteran.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Emery Chee during this difficult time.

For information regarding Chee’s services, please contact Lorene Chee at (505) 778-5566.

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